

SPORTS PINK

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Cook serves up late treat for Cherries

SEE PAGES 6/7

SAINTS 0 BURNLEY 1

Saints fan Sam piles the pressure on Pellegrino

CRASH 'n' BURN

SEE PAGES 2/3



Eastleigh throw away 2-0 lead against Chester

SEE PAGE 11



Saints style not what the fans were promised

SEE PAGES 20-23



Cricket league award winners picture special

SEE PAGES 36-37

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Cork: Cup winners should look for loans

England's World Cup-winning youth players should seek loan moves to fulfil their potential.

That's the view of one of their predecessors in the Young Lions set-up, Jack Cork.

Cork was a highly-rated product of the Chelsea academy, captaining the club's youth and reserve teams as well as England Under-19s, but failed to make the first team at Stamford Bridge.

Instead he set out on a series of temporary moves - six in total - building the experience that has made him a Premier League regular with Saints, Swansea and now Burnley.

One of his loan spells was at St Mary's under Jan Poortvliet in the first half of the 2008/09 Championship season.

The bulk of the side which captured the Under-17 World Cup for England last week are with elite clubs including Chelsea, Manchester City and Liverpool, but Cork thinks chances will be limited at that level.

"It's always difficult, especially at the big clubs, but the way it works with the loan system there are a lot more opportunities," he said.

"You need to get out on the stage and play games. It can be daunting at first, at 18 or 19, but for me it was the best way to do it.



Jack Cork

"It's good for young players because you're not really going to get the first team opportunities, unless you're someone like Phil Foden, who has the press around him and the manager bigging him up at every opportunity.

"For me I'd say to those young players 'go and get as many games as you can while you're young' and if it gets to a point where you're still not playing games in your first team then maybe look to leave."

Cork cited the example of Tottenham's Josh Onomah, who won the Under-20 World Cup in June and is spending the season with Aston Villa.

"I watched the first half of the Villa game (against Preston) the other night," he said.

"I didn't know much about Onomah before but I saw himself put himself about, get physical - that's all you need. To put yourself out there, to be in a competitive environment where people depend on you to get results.

"I was really impressed with him. He could have sat at Tottenham playing a couple of times, but you need games coming from that sort of environment."

SAINTS

SAINTS 0 BURNLEY 1

Saints fan Sam



Sam Vokes rises to head Burnley's late winner.

stuns St Mary's

Adam Leitch



TEAM NEWS

Mauricio Pellegrino made two changes to the side that drew at Brighton for the visit of Burnley.

There was another change at centre half with Wesley Hoedt dropped to the bench and Maya Yoshida coming into the side.

In the attacking three behind Manolo Gabbiadini there was a recall for Nathan Redmond with James Ward-Prowse the man to make way. Charlie Austin was fit enough to return to the bench against his former club,

but Mario Lemina remained sidelined by an ankle injury.

SAINTS: Forster, Cedric, Yoshida, van Dijk, Bertrand, Romeu, Davis, Tadic, Boufal, Redmond, Gabbiadini.
Subs: McCarthy, Hoedt, McQueen, Hojbjerg, Ward-Prowse, Long, Austin.
BURNLEY: Pope, Lowton, Tarkowski, Mee, Ward, Gudmundsson, Defour, Cork, Brady, Hendrick, Wood.
Subs: Lindegaard, Bardsley, Westwood, Arfield, Long, Barnes, Vokes.

Saints fan Sam Vokes heaped the pressure on Mauricio Pellegrino as his winner saw Burnley grab a 1-0 win at St Mary's.

The match marked the end of Saints' kind run of fixtures to start the season with a defeat to take into the international break, after which they face all of the top six before the end of the year.

Vokes' winner nine minutes from time came from Burnley's only shot on target in the entire match on another another frustrating day for Saints who were roundly booed off at the final whistle.

Saints started the game with some intensity, with an attack minded line-up almost playing as a front four at times.

They were able to have comfort in doing so with Burnley content to sit deep, stay organised and try and soak up the pressure.

Burnley's plan was to attempt to hit Saints on the counter attack and they did just that on nine minutes as Johann Berg Gudmundsson had the first shot of the game which he slashed wide from distance.

The St Mary's crowd was stick-

ing behind their team and remaining patient, despite the fact the side were struggling to create a chance.

Robbie Brady tried to make something happen for Burnley, whipping in a cross from the right but it was too high for Chris Wood and drifted wide of the far post.

Saints finally managed a shot on 26 minutes as Dusan Tadic lifted in a cross from the right that was met by the head of Ryan Bertrand. However, from a difficult position, he couldn't hit the target.

It seemed to give Saints a little more attacking impetus, and they were attempting to pull Burnley out of position by going wide.

Nathan Redmond tried to make

something happen with a positive run but he ended up off balance as he attempted to hit a shot from the edge of the area that went well wide.

Sofiane Boufal eventually gave Nick Pope something to do as the ball dropped to him at the far post on 35 minutes.

It was a really tough volley to hit but the Moroccan showed great technique to keep the ball down, firing it into the turf and forcing Pope to dive to turn wide at his near post.

He was in action again moments later, this time cutting out Bertrand's attempted cross which ended up on target.

Bertrand had another go, this time with a driven shot from in-

side the box, but it was cut out by a brave challenge from James Tarkowski.

Saints produced their best attacking move of the half three minutes before the break as Redmond collected a cross field diagonal pass and drove into the area before unleashing a well struck low shot.

However, Pope saved at his near post.

That proved to be the final action of a fairly underwhelming half of football which ended goal-less.

The second period started in a similarly less than thrilling fashion with neither side really looking like they were prepared to take a significant risk.

Saints managed to get a sight of goal on 54 minutes as Tadic put in a cross from the right that found the head of Manolo Gabbiadini, but the striker couldn't make a clean connection with his finish and it drifted wide of the far post.

Again there were sudden sparks of life from Saints and a good passing move gave Bertrand the chance to shoot in the area, only to see it well blocked by a sliding tackle.

Maya Yoshida was the next to have a go with a terrific half volley on the turn from the edge of the box, but Pope dived to make the save.

SAINTS



Ryan Bertrand (left) and Burnley's Ashley Barnes battle for possession. Right - Virgil van Dijk tries to engineer a late chance.



Pellegrino: We played a 'good game'

Mauricio Pellegrino said he felt Saints played a "good game" as they were beaten 1-0 by Burnley at St Mary's.

Pellegrino admitted the loss to a Sam Vokes goal nine minutes from time was "painful", but praised his side for their character and spirit.

He also insisted that he was content with the way they played - apart from their finishing.

He said: "It is part of our job. Sometimes you are better than the opponent in all different aspects of the game except converting chances like today."

"The only one on target they convert."

"They were better in this aspect, ok, and it's really painful because I think we did everything



Virgil van Dijk tries to make his presence felt late on.

to try to get something more against a good side and I think we played a good game.

"In general, and I repeat, in defence, with the ball, in movement we create chances."

"Our football, our job, is something that is unpredictable, something that is amazing and painful at the same time."

When it was put to Pellegrino that the fans didn't seem as content with the team's display as he was, he replied: "I think that we play well and we play much better than Burnley."

"The only aspect that Burnley was better than us was converting and accuracy and efficiency."

"The most important part of the game is the most important moment of the game and this is part of our job and part of our sport."

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Redmond threatened to burst through moments later but slipped as he collected a one-two with Gabbiadini and could only poke wide.

Steven Davis tried to convert a tough chance as a half cleared corner dropped to him on the edge of the box but his volley went well over the bar.

Saints were starting to crank up the pressure on Burnley, who were beginning to look a little more ragged defensively.

They quickly acted to try and turn that around with a double change on 65 minutes with Ashley Barnes and Vokes replacing Jeff Hendrick and Wood.

Saints also made a switch with ex-Claret Charlie Austin coming on for Gabbiadini.

Vokes had the chance to create something for Burnley soon after coming on but he picked the wrong option and tried to produce an outlandish cut back rather than firing the ball across the six yard box from inside the area.

The Burnley changes certainly



Ex-Saint Jack Cork and Matthew Lowton all smiles at the final whistle.

had the desired effect as it halted the Saints march forward, giving them greater options to hold the ball up up front.

Saints made a second change on

76 minutes with Shane Long replacing Tadic.

Davis went close on 80 minutes as he turned Jack Cork just outside the area but his left footed

shot went narrowly over.

Saints were stunned, though, as Burnley took the lead on 81 minutes with their first shot on target.

It came somewhat out of nothing as Gudmundsson took advantage of space on the right wing to lob in a cross.

It didn't look particularly threatening but Vokes did a superb job of not only beating Yoshida to the ball but executing a brilliant header to guide it into the bottom corner from 12 yards out.

Saints took drastic measures to try and get back into it with Virgil van Dijk moving to play up front so the team could go more direct.

James Ward-Prowse replaced Boufal for the three minutes of added time.

But it couldn't make a difference as Saints were booed off at the end, with a few jeers in particular reserved for Pellegrino as he went down the tunnel.

SAINTS V BURNLEY, PREMIER LEAGUE, ST MARY'S



Saints fans in good spirits ahead of kick off.



Marching on together.



Saints fans outside St Mary's.



Saints fans before the game. Pictures by Stuart Martin.



Sofiane Boufal fires in a shot.



Ryan Bertrand in action during Saints' home defeat.



Saints players observe the minute's silence beforehand.



Ex-Saint Jack Cork and Sofiane Boufal.

SAINTS V BURNLEY, PREMIER LEAGUE, ST MARY'S



Dusan Tadic in possession.



Ryan Bertrand Burnley's Ashley Barnes battle for possession.



Sofiane Boufal looks to set up an attack.



Oriol Romeu challenges for possession.



A young Saints fan prior to kick off against Burnley.



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Lawrie family link to former Celtic record

Celtic's own British record for unbeaten domestic games stood for 100 years until Brendan Rodgers' side went one better by stretching their run to 63 matches this weekend.

Saturday's 4-0 victory at St Johnstone was a clinical way of achieving the landmark.

The previous record was set by Willie Maley's side during the First World War, during a time when only league football was played.

Between 1914 and 1917, internationals and the Scottish Cup were put on hold while the League Cup did not emerge until after the Second World War.

During that time, Celtic won the league four times in a row and instrumental in that success was an unbeaten run of 62 matches between November 1915 and April 1917.

It was a 2-0 home win over Kilmarnock in front of 4,000 fans, thanks to goals by Joe Dodds and James McColl, which set the Parkhead club on their way. The run was halted with a 2-0 defeat, coincidentally at the hands of Kilmarnock.



Lawrie McMenemy

Remarkably, Celtic played twice in one day during that sequence.

On April 15, 1916, Celtic beat Raith Rovers 6-0 at Parkhead to take the title and take their goal total to 104 in 34 matches, beating Falkirk's 103 goals in 34 matches record set in season 1907/1908.

Later in the day the Hoops travelled to Lanarkshire to beat Motherwell 3-1 at Fir Park.

Maley's side won 49 matches during their record-breaking run, drawing 13, scoring 126 goals and conceding just 16.

The captain was James 'Sunny Jim' Young and other notable players included Patsy Gallacher and Jimmy McMenemy, left winger Johnny Browning, right winger Andy McAtee and goalkeeper Charlie Shaw.

Saints legend Lawrie McMenemy is a distant relative of Jimmy.

CHERRIES

Cook serves up

Echo Reporter

A LAST-GASP header from Steve Cook gave Cherries a priceless 1-0 win at Newcastle United.

The centre-half rose highest in the second minute of stoppage time to seal victory at St James's Park, as Cherries recorded back-to-back away league triumphs.

The contest seemed destined to end goalless after Marc Pugh hit the post in the latter stages, but Cook was the hero as the Dorset club picked up their third league win of the campaign to move out of the relegation zone.

Having come on as a substitute during the 1-0 defeat against Chelsea last time out, Cherries striker Callum Wilson recorded his first Premier League start since January, after recovering from a serious knee injury.

He partnered Joshua King up front, who also made his return following a back problem.

There were recalls for Harry Arter, Jordon Ibe and Marc Pugh, as boss Eddie Howe made five changes in total.

The visitors also reverted to a back four and deployed skipper Simon Francis at right-back.

The injured Benik Afobe and Junior Stanislas did not feature, while Jermain Defoe, Lewis Cook and Adam Smith dropped to the bench.

Magpies boss Rafa Benitez opted to include Dwight Gale in his starting XI to partner Joselu up front.

Ex-Cherries Matt Ritchie and Christian Atsu both started against their former clubs.

And it was Ritchie who came within inches of opening the scoring after just six minutes.

After the Magpies had won the ball on the left, his thunderous strike across goal was well saved by keeper Asmir Begovic, who flew to his right to tip the ball out for a corner.

Ritchie continued to trouble his former employers as Cherries were forced to deal with another early opportunity for the hosts.

The former Swindon man delivered a cross for striker Gale at the far post, who saw his header blocked by Cook at point-blank range.

Another sharp stop from Begovic then came to deny Atsu, who let fly from all of 30 yards – that was before Newcastle had the ball in the net on 16 minutes.

Ritchie's curling strike cannoned off the inside of the post and Gayle was there to slot home on the follow-up, only to be flagged offside.

Cook was then on hand to put



Cherries players celebrate after the final whistle. Main pic - Steve Cook wheels away in celebration after his late decider.

in another block, this time from Atsu, who had cut in from the left and shot on the angle.

Gayle then dispossessed Andrew Surman in a dangerous area and played in Joselu, but the Spanish striker could only drag his shot wide.

Having soaked up a vast amount of pressure during the opening half hour, Cherries almost took

the lead against the run of play on 35 minutes.

Francis cut the ball back to Wilson and his looping header forced Newcastle stopper Rob Elliot to tip the ball over. Shortly after, Elliot was called on again to smother a strike from King at his near post.

Wilson's big moment then came six minutes after the break, but

he squandered the best chance of the contest to that point.

After Ake's headed clearance was flicked into the former Coventry frontman's path by King, Wilson raced in one-on-one with Elliot but could only find the side netting.

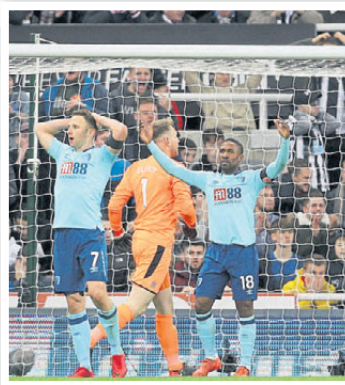
King was the architect once again for the visitors just past the hour mark, he clipped a precise



CHERRIES



dramatic winner



Marc Pugh and Jermain Defoe rue a late chance, before Steve Cook's late winner



The teams observe a minute's silence before kick off.



ball onto the head of Pugh, whose effort was gathered.

Howe then looked to the bench and introduced Defoe and Smith for Wilson and Ibe.

And just two minutes from time, Cherries almost went ahead.

Pugh's effort from an acute angle squirmed under the body of Elliot and clipped the inside of the post.

But it was Cook who made the difference as he leapt above his man to power home Surman's corner with his head to win it in the closing moments.

Cherries: Begovic, Francis, S Cook, Ake, Daniels; Pugh, Surman, Arter, Ibe (Defoe, 75); King; Wilson (Smith, 75). Unused subs: Gosling, L Cook, Fraser, Mousset, Boruc (g/k). Booked: Surman, Francis

Newcastle: Elliot; Yedlin, Lascelles (Clark, 55), Lejeune, Manquillo; Shelvey, Hayden, Ritchie, Atsu (Murphy, 82); Gayle, Joselu (Perez, 68). Unused subs: Diame, Gamez, Mitrovic, Darlow (g/k).

● Rajiv van La Parra fired a stunning first-half winner as 10-man Huddersfield held on for another Premier League win to heap more pressure on West Brom boss

Tony Pulis.

Van La Parra curled home the only goal just before half-time and although Christopher Schindler was sent off early in the second period, David Wagner's side produced more heroics to leave the visitors without a win in nine Premier League matches.

The Terriers, indebted to goalkeeper Jonas Lossl in stoppage time, beat Manchester United in their previous home game and this fourth league win of the season has lifted them five points clear of the Baggies, who have not won since mid-August.

● Glenn Murray scored for the third successive game as Brighton inflicted yet more home misery on struggling Swansea.

Murray's 29th-minute close-range effort gave Brighton 1-0 win and took the Seagulls into the top half of the table in their debut Premier League season.

It was another victory down to commitment, energy and organisation, with Brighton boss Chris Hughton winning the tactical battle and Lewis Dunk and Shane Duffy outstanding in central defence.

Brighton have lost once in six games and their victory was only briefly threatened when substitute Luciano Narsingh struck the crossbar in stoppage time.

Swansea's season is turning into another sorry affair after last term's close shave with relegation.

This was a fifth home defeat in six games and drops them into the relegation zone.

● QPR's nightmare run at the City Ground was maintained in emphatic fashion as Nottingham Forest romped to a 4-0 success - ensuring an unwanted Football League record for Ian Holloway's men.

The Hoops have never won at Forest - and never looked likely to - as Mark Warburton's men cruised to a victory inspired by two goals from Tyler Walker and a rampaging performance from Barrie McKay.

QPR have now failed to win in 34 visits to the City Ground - including 29 games in the league, which is now officially the worst run of form of any Football League side, at any one venue, eclipsing Grimsby who have failed to win in 28 visits to Blackburn Rovers.

● Non-league Boreham Wood dumped 1953 FA Cup winners Blackpool out of the competition at the first-round stage with an 88th-minute winner through Dan Holman.

The League One Seasiders had gone ahead through Danny Philliskirk's 62nd-minute opener but substitutes Blair Turgott and Holman turned the game on its head.

Celtic's new British record

Celtic this weekend set a new British record of 63 domestic matches unbeaten.

Their last loss to another Scottish club was a 2-1 league defeat at St Johnstone on May 11 2016.

They did lose five times in European action last season, and have lost four already this term.

Here, the Sports Pink looks at the numbers behind their domestic achievement.

40

The number of players Celtic have used since the run started in May 2016.

1

Logan Bailly, Jamie McCart and Stefan Johansen featured in just one game of the record-breaking run.

59

Craig Gordon made the most appearances.

15

Skipper Scott Brown has received 15 yellow cards during the run.

6

Half-a-dozen players - Gordon, Mikael Lustig, Brown, Stuart Armstrong, Callum McGregor and Scott Sinclair - have featured in at least 50 games.



Craig Gordon

56

The number of wins Celtic have accumulated during the 18-month run.

183

The number of goals Celtic have scored. They have conceded 35.

7

The number of players who scored in the first game of the run, a 7-0 thrashing of Motherwell in Ronny Deila's final match in charge.

33

Number of goals scored by Moussa Dembele against Scottish teams during the run.

16

The age of the youngest player to feature. Jack Aitchison was 16 years and 67 days old when he made a goalscoring debut against Motherwell in game one of the streak.

Cards aim for new FA Cup shock

Woking striker Jamie Philpot is out to play his trump card and create his own FA Cup history.

The Millwall loanee is ready to face Bury in the first round on Sunday with the Cardinals aiming to maintain their cup pedigree.

Woking have not reached the second round since 2005 but previously made it for eight straight seasons in the 1990s - including reaching the fourth round in 1991 when they lost to Everton.

And Philpot is eager to embark on another cup run at the Kingfield Stadium.

"It would be nice to create some more history," he said.

"The club has a great history in the FA Cup. It's instilled in the club and we're looking now to bring that back and go on another good cup run.

"At the start of the season we sat down and the FA Cup was one of the main focal points.

"Geoff Chapple was the manager during the cup runs and he's told us how good it would be. It's been a bit of a history lesson and we want to recreate it."

Bury are second bottom of League One, with Woking - led by former Saints academy coach Anthony Limbrick - eighth in the National League, after the Shakers sacked manager Lee Clark last week.

Ryan Lowe is in caretaker charge at Bury but Philpot, who has scored three goals this season, insists the Cards cannot



Geoff Chapple

focus on the disarray at Gigg Lane.

He said: "We're looking to cause an upset. They're in League One and we're in the National League so all the pressure is on them. That will make it easier for us but we'll do the same preparations as we do for any game.

"When a manager goes you can go one of two ways, either fighting for their new manager or continue the bad form. We need to focus on ourselves."

Elsewhere, National League South side Truro - whose assistant manager is ex Eastleigh boss Chris Todd - go to three divisions higher Charlton Athletic after being the first Cornish club to reach the first round since 1969.

Wycombe, semi-finalists in 2001, head to Solihull Moors, 1987 winners Coventry host Maidenhead at the Ricoh Arena and Cambridge welcome Sutton.

Isthmian League Division One North side Heybridge Swifts are aiming to upset League Two side Exeter and Swindon head to Dartford hoping to avoid embarrassment.

Leatherhead play Billericay Town and Accrington go to Guiseley.

PREMIER LEAGUE

Guardiola: We'll need the fans' help



Pep Guardiola

Pep Guardiola has called on supporters to help re-energise his Manchester City side as they take on Arsenal on Sunday.

The City boss expects the Premier League leaders to be a little weary after Wednesday's exhilarating Champions League win away at Napoli.

City beat the Serie A pacesetters 4-2 in a compelling clash but they had little time to enjoy it before travelling home to begin preparations for the Gunners' visit to the Etihad Stadium.

"We need our fans' support,"

Guardiola said. "After the Champions League it is so tough.

"On Thursday (in the Europa League) Arsenal played without the real squad who are going to play on Sunday, so they rested for one week.

"The lack of energy we will have is normal after the Champions League, so our supporters can help us in that."

City have not been beaten in 22 competitive fixtures since being edged out by Arsenal in extra time of last season's FA Cup semi-final.

Their current run of 14 successive wins is a new club record but extending the sequence is not what motivates Guardiola.

"What matters is to play good and win," he said. "Records are always a consequence of winning games and making good achievements. The main thing is to win the next one."

City are clear title favourites, but Guardiola is taking no notice. He said: "How many games are left? Twenty-eight. Eighty-four points to play for, five points in front. It's nothing."

Unsworth: I need my senior plays to shine

Rory Dolland

David Unsworth has urged the likes of Wayne Rooney to play a leading role when Everton bid to halt their slide against Watford on Sunday.

The Toffees have lost their last five games, three of them under caretaker manager Unsworth, and sit in the Premier League relegation zone.

Unsworth left Rooney, Leighton Baines and Phil Jagielka at home for Everton's 3-0 loss to Lyon on Thursday, which ended their Europa League qualification hopes.

All three are set to be involved on Sunday, and Unsworth said: "Senior players are always important and they're all top players with many appearances under their names.

Trust

"We've got a few young players in and around the squad as well so their importance to those young players is vital. Any time you go into big games, and Sunday's a big game, a cup final for me, you always need your senior players who you can rely on and trust."

After a seventh-placed finish last season and a summer of big spending under former boss Ronald Koeman, expectations among the blue half of Merseyside were sky high, making their current difficulties all the harder to swallow.

Unsworth, who has stepped up from the under-23s and is hoping to be given the job on a permanent basis, believes Everton's problems are collective.



Wayne Rooney will return for Everton against Watford on Sunday.

He said: "It's very difficult. For most of the games I've been in charge we've competed, the effort's there. Occasionally we've made silly mistakes that have

conceded goals so we need to tighten that up.

"We need to try to create a few more opportunities to give everybody the opportunity to try and

hit the back of the net.

"It's a little bit of everything and you try to tweak that as best as you can and you try and pick the best team and individuals for the next game, because all that matters is winning the next game."

Watford have been another surprise package this season but for much more positive reasons.

Marco Silva has been linked with the job at Goodison Park after guiding the Hornets to eighth place, racking up three wins from five away games - including a 2-0 success at St Mary's.

Unsworth has called on the Everton fans, who grew increasingly vociferous in their opposition to Koeman, to ensure there is home advantage.

Stick together

He said: "We stick together, and that includes the fans as well.

"The players have got to play on the front foot. They're well aware of what's needed at Goodison and, if they're not, I'll certainly be reminding them. We need to try and play with freedom and positivity and that's my job to instil that in the players.

"Goodison is an amazing place to play football. I know it like the back of my hand. When our fans get behind us there's no better place.

"I know on Sunday that they'll be there for us. Not me, but for the team, because the team needs its fans at the moment and we all need to stick together in a difficult time.

"We need to win a couple of games quickly, because my experience playing in the Premier League tells me that you can go and win a couple of games and all of a sudden be in the top 10."

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PREMIER LEAGUE



Ex-Saint Crouch is Stoke super sub

Sean
Taylor

Stoke manager Mark Hughes admits he will soon have to start playing Peter Crouch from the beginning of matches if the veteran striker keeps scoring from the bench.

The 36-year-old came on to score as a substitute for the third time this season in the Premier League on Saturday as his header earned Stoke a 2-2 draw with Claude Puel's Leicester at the bet365 Stadium.

Crouch's powerful downward header from a Xherdan Shaqiri corner after 73 minutes followed up his winning goal from the bench against Saints last month.

He also earned Hughes' side a point at West Brom in August following his introduction as a substitute.

"He's not a bad option, is he?" said Hughes. "The big man has come on again and done what he always does, which is make an impact."

"Peter's quality and attributes are there for all to see. He came on and was a real threat and he gave them something else to think about and we changed things about and were a threat from that point onwards."

"He can still score at this level because physically he's in the right place and is engaged in the game. I thought he was exceptional in his general play as well, not just the great goal he scored."

"Everybody says he's Plan B, but if he continues he will be Plan A. I must say, he's doing nothing wrong."

Crouch's goal, his fourth of the season having also scored against Rochdale in the Carabao Cup, a game which he started, saw Stoke peg back Leicester for the second time after Shaqiri had equalised in the first half.

Vicente Iborra's first goal in English football gave Leicester a deserved lead, which Riyad Mahrez restored on the hour mark.

Hughes was pleased with the character his team showed, he said: "The least we deserved, given our determination and battling qualities, was a draw but we could have won it at the end."

"We showed character to come back twice because being in front is the ideal scenario for Leicester, as with the players they have they can then hit you on the counter attack."



Leicester's Vicente Iborra celebrate scoring at Stoke.



Stoke's Peter Crouch celebrates his equaliser.

Leicester created the better and more frequent chances to score.

And while Puel was disappointed not to make it two wins from his first two matches in charge, the Foxes boss felt there were plenty of positives to take forward.

"I don't know if a draw is fair because we created a lot of chances and perhaps we deserved more,

although right at the end we could have lost and it is a good save by Kasper (Schmeichel)," said Puel.

"It is an encouraging game and we can keep the spirit going forward, keep the good dynamic, but it is perhaps disappointing because of all the chances we had."

"I am happy with the attitude and intensity and passion. We had a lot of chances away (from

home) and a lot of play and it is encouraging for the future. But it is a pity we couldn't be more clinical and get the game for us."

Puel was denied points by Puel for the second time in his last three games as a manager. His final game in charge of Saints saw Crouch score Stoke's winner at St Mary's last May.



Leicester City manager Claude Puel

No longer a Beloved One

Chelsea and Manchester United meet on Sunday in a Premier League grudge match which could impact both sides' title bids. Here, the Sports Pink looks at the talking points ahead of the Stamford Bridge contest.

MOURINHO MOTIVATION

Humiliated in a 4-0 loss on his return to Stamford Bridge last season, Jose Mourinho was next called "Judas" by a section of Chelsea fans during March's 1-0 FA Cup loss. He responded by reminding them of his achievements at Chelsea. No longer The Beloved One, Mourinho would relish adding to Antonio Conte's problems with a victory. The question is how will he do it? By his tried and tested method of parking the bus? Or by playing the 'United way'? Former Blues Nemanja Matic, Romelu Lukaku and, likely to a lesser extent, Juan Mata could also have an impact for the visitors.

HISTORY REPEATING ITSELF?

Chelsea are already nine points behind leaders Manchester City entering this weekend's fixtures. Should Mourinho's men win, then the Blues' chances of retaining the title won in Conte's first campaign will look ever more unlikely. It is a situation reminiscent of two seasons ago when Mourinho's title-winning Blues imploded. Then Chelsea lost nine of their first 16 Premier League matches and Conte's Blues have been beaten in three of their first 10.



Jose Mourinho

STRIKING FORWARDS

When it became apparent Diego Costa - a Mourinho signing - had no future at Chelsea, it was widely assumed Lukaku would return to Stamford Bridge. Instead the Belgium striker swapped Everton for Manchester United, and Chelsea pulled off a perceived coup in signing Alvaro Morata from Real Madrid.

Lukaku scored seven in seven league games and Morata six in six. But both are without a goal in six games in all competitions. Both men will be keen to rediscover their scoring form against top-level opposition.

MIDFIELD SUPREMACY

Chelsea will be desperate for N'Golo Kante to be fit following a hamstring injury which has seen him miss six matches. Kante's athleticism and intelligence are key to the balance of the Blues. Mourinho has hailed the signing of Matic from Chelsea.

The strengthening of a title rival left some pundits scratching their heads, while Conte was displeased at Matic's departure. But the Serbia midfielder's contract was running down and Chelsea took the best financial offer.

It will be intriguing to see Matic against his replacement, Tiemoue Bakayoko. Injuries have troubled Chelsea, but United are without midfielders Paul Pogba, Michael Carrick and Marouane Fellani.

NON LEAGUE



Ex-Saint is City FA Cup hero

FORMER Saints striker Matt Paterson made FA Cup headlines again this weekend.

The striker was sent off playing against Manchester United in a third round tie at St Mary's in January 2009.

Back in the summer he caused a stir on social media over the summer when he was pictured signing his Oxford City contract in a McDonald's restaurant.

Paterson scored Oxford's goal in 1-0 first round victory at Colchester this weekend.

That was some win - Oxford are currently second bottom of the National League South and Colchester play two tiers above in League 2.

Former Basingstoke striker Delano Sam-Yorke bagged a brace before being sent off in non league Maidstone's thrilling 4-2 victory at League 1 Cheltenham.

Former Eastleigh and Winchester striker Chris Flood was on target as Slough won 6-0 at National League North side Gainsborough, with Matt Lench scoring a hat-trick.

Slough play a level below Gainsborough in the Southern League Premier.



Matt Paterson

● **CHRISTCHURCH'S** Russell Cotes Cup heroics have been rewarded with a second round trip to AFC Totton later this month.

The Sydenhams One high-fliers set up a meeting with Louis Langdown's Evo-Stik South West outfit after seeing off Hamble Club 3-2 at the MA Hart Stadium last month, courtesy of Jack Satterley (2) and Chris Senior.

Christchurch are scheduled to visit the Stags' Total Branding Community Stadium on Tuesday, November 14.

Cup holders AFC Portchester will entertain Petersfield Town on November 28, while last season's beaten finalists Bemerton Heath Harlequins have a hot date at Sydenhams Premier table-toppers Andover Town on November 21.

Russell Cotes Cup, second round: AFC Portchester v Petersfield Town (Nov 28), AFC Stoneham v Lymington Town (Nov 21), AFC Totton v Christchurch (Nov 14), Andover Town v Bemerton Heath Harlequins (Nov 21), Fareham Town v Gosport Borough (Nov 21), Fleet Town v Liphook Utd (Nov 14), Moneyfields v Paulsgrove (Nov 14), Sholing v Bush Hill (Nov 14), Fareham Town v Gosport Borough (Nov 21).

Donald: Why I've only got myself to blame

'We should be watching a team near the top of the league'

Wendy Gee

THERE'S a reason why votes of confidence in the world of football are usually preceded by the word 'dreaded'.

In many cases, it means the club's manager is about to be sacked.

But when Eastleigh chairman Stewart Donald spoke about needing "to be patient" with team boss Richard Hill, it came with the unusual confession that there is only person to blame for the mountain of problems Hill inherited when he returned to Silverlake in February - himself.

In a refreshingly honest interview on BBC Radio Solent Sport, the wealthy Oxfordshire businessman admitted that, in his eagerness to steer the Spitfires into the Football League, he had allowed a situation to develop where "over-inflated wages" were attracting the wrong type of player.

Donald pleaded guilty to making "a big mistake" in trying to buy his way out of the league and spoke of the need to get to a stage where Eastleigh are paying "realistic wages."

Having led the Spitfires to the National League promised land as Conference South champions in 2014, Hill oversaw a lofty fourth-placed finish in their first season in non-League's top flight.

But, following his departure, the wage bill spiralled and, aside from a couple of decent FA Cup runs, results alarmingly nosedived.

Much of the problem, said Donald, was that Eastleigh's growing reputation as big spenders made them a magnet for players looking to join the club for the wrong reasons.

Hill has been doing his best to change that perception during his second spell at the helm, but Donald appreciates there is no quick fix.

"Every player, football agent etc. knows we've been paying big wag-



Stewart Donald

Unfortunately our players over the last 18 months have not risen to the challenge - and if you go purely on financials, they should have - Stewart Donald

es for the last couple of years and expect us to pay those big wages," said Donald.

"And the reality is that paying those big wages has not worked.

"We've seen lots of teams come

to us with a much lower budget, but sometimes with more energy.

"Unfortunately our players over the last 18 months have not risen to the challenge - and if you go purely on financials, they should

have done.

"We actually need to get to the stage where we're paying a realistic wage.

"That's my fault because I've paid more money for players than I should have done in a real eagerness to get out of the league.

"I've taken the view that we can buy our way out of the league - and it's a really tough league - and that was a big mistake.

"It's going to take a while to educate the footballing world that we're not going to do that anymore.

"Ultimately, I have to take quite a large level of responsibility because I have made Eastleigh a place where footballers come who want to earn decent money.

"I have paid some of those over-inflated wages in the past and that has led to a very difficult scenario for us to attract the right players.

"Richard had to do that the first time he came in and it took a bit of time - and I'm confident he can do it again.

"I need to be patient with him.

"I think the majority of fans understand we can't keep changing the managers like I did last year and I can't keep signing player after player. I can't just keep throwing money at it, because it's not working.

"I haven't got a management team that want to waste my money.

"If I'm patient with them, they will spend the money correctly and help us to be sustainable. Hopefully that will work.

"It might just take a bit longer, but I urge fans to be patient."

While Eastleigh's current position in the lower half of the National League table is far from ideal, Donald is convinced Hill and his management team can get them back on an upward trajectory.

"I like Andy (Hessenthaler, assistant manager), he's a good, honest guy who is well connected and knows his football. And Ben Stevens (player-coach) and Paul Reid (head of recruitment/secretary) behind the scenes bleed for the club - and so does Richard," he said.

"Of course people will query this and that decision. They'll do that at every club and the expectation level at Eastleigh is high.

"The feeling of underachieving the fans will have - and I have - is correct. We should be watching a team at the top or near the top of this league - and we're not.

"But I see it every day here and we know what we've done and the issues we have behind the scenes with regard to attracting players, working within a budget etc. and the way we've gone about it."

NON LEAGUE

EASTLEIGH 2 CHESTER 2

Spitfires hit by a rousing recovery

Wendy Gee



EASTLEIGH'S hopes of notching a third win in four Vanarama National League games were sunk by a rousing Chester fight-back at the Silverlake Stadium.

The Spitfires scored early in each half through Ben Williamson and Gary McSheffrey to put themselves in the driving seat.

But it all unravelled in the last half-hour as James Akintunde and an 89th-minute Ryan Astles leveller hauled the lowly visitors back for a 2-2 draw.

With defensive duo Ryan Cresswell and Reda Johnson both sidelined with hamstring issues, the Spitfires made two enforced changes to the side that started last week's excellent 2-1 win at Macclesfield.

In came Gavin Hoyte, switching from right to left-back after a three-match ban, while Ayo Obileye filled the right-back berth.

In all, Eastleigh had eight players out injured, but they made light of their troubles to go 1-0 up with just two minutes gone.

Danny Hollands played in James Constable and the former Oxford United forward did brilliantly to hold the ball up and it lay it back for Ben Williamson to drill in his eighth goal of the season.

But no sooner had they established a lead than Eastleigh so nearly gave it away when Ross Flitney came tearing out of his area. Akintunde rounded the stranded keeper and squared to the unmarked Ross Hannah, centrally placed in front of goal.

An equaliser seemed inevitable but, fortunately for the Spitfires, Andrew Boyce bailed them out with a face-saving header, diverting the ball away from the empty net.

Mark Yeates, two-goal hero of the Macclesfield win, fancied himself for another on 25 minutes, bursting in from the left and letting fly from the corner of the area. It was on target, but Chester keeper Connor Mitchell turned it away.

A lengthy spell of Eastleigh possession followed with Williamson denied by a last-ditch tackle and Obileye curving a delightful ball down the right into the path of



Action from Eastleigh's 2-2 home draw with Chester. Pictures by James Newell.



Cav Miley throws himself into a sliding tackle.

McSheffrey whose low delivery fizzed across the goal face.

Eastleigh needlessly put pressure on themselves conceding a corner and free kick in the closing minutes of half.

They scrambled the corner clear and McSheffrey's breakaway was halted by Reece Hall-Johnson, who was yellow-carded.

Chester's stoppage time free-kick was straight off the training ground with Lathaniel Rowe-Turner found free on the left and crossing for skipper Kingsley James who should have converted at the back stick, but somehow steered his effort wide.

Half-time: Eastleigh 1 Chester 0.

Yeates showed his quality again three minutes into the second half, curling a delicious free-kick marginally wide of Mitchell's far post.

On 52 minutes came a goal to cherish as Eastleigh doubled their advantage with Yeates and McSheffrey oozing Football League class.

The latter played in Yeates on the left of the area and the No10 crossed back to McSheffrey who deftly nodded it over the advancing Mitchell at his near post.

Eastleigh, though, seldom make life easy for themselves and, having survived one huge scare when Flitney denied the rampaging Hannah, they had their lead sliced in half with an hour gone.

It was all too easy for the visitors as skipper James got in on the right by-line and cut the ball back for Akintunde to slam high into the net.

Moments later Akintunde had another opening when Dawson's deflected shot fell into his path, but his effort flew well over.

The Spitfires rang the changes with Ben Strevens, Craig McAllister and fit-again Sam Matthews coming on in the closing minutes, but the momentum was mainly with Chester and Flitney made another crucial save on 84 minutes when Astles threatened at his near post.

Eastleigh hearts were in mouths when Akintunde rounded Flitney inside the area but Chester couldn't make the most of the opening.

The relentless pressure from the visitors finally told in the 89th minute when Eastleigh's slender lead was wiped out.

Dawson delivered a corner from the left and the giant figure of Astles was waiting to bury a free header.

Eastleigh: Ross Flitney, Gavin Hoyte, Callum Howe, Danny Hollands, Andrew Boyce, Ayo Obileye (Ben Strevens, 72), Gary McSheffrey (Sam Matthews, 79), Cavaghn Miley, James Constable, Ben Williamson (Craig McAllister, 76), Mark Yeates. Subs (not used) Chris Zebroski, Ollie Dennett.
Referee: Savvas Yianni.
Attendance: 1,868 (138 Chester)

Who could be next in at Black Cats?

Sunderland are looking for their 11th permanent manager in less than nine years following Simon Grayson's departure.

Here, the Sports Pink takes a look at some of the possible contenders for a job which has ultimately defeated a series of big names.

Peter Reid

Sunderland enjoyed their best spell under Reid, who twice guided them to seventh place Premier League finishes and remains a favourite on Wearside despite not having taken charge of an English club since his time at Plymouth drew to a close in September 2011. He has both vast experience and undeniable goodwill, but the wisdom of returning to a club at which he has previously enjoyed success is questionable.

Roy Keane

Keane enjoyed a largely positive spell in charge at the Stadium of Light during the Drumaville era and has made no secret of his desire to return to club management one day. He has verbally agreed a contract extension in his current role as Republic of Ireland assistant manager, but Martin O'Neill fully expects to lose him at some point in the future.



Kevin Phillips

Sam Allardyce

Sunderland thought they had got it right when they appointed Allardyce in October 2015 and saw him guide the club away from relegation. He left for a short and ill-fated spell as England manager at the end of that season, but did so having been made aware of the depth of the club's financial woes, and that situation has not improved since.

Kevin Ball

The former Black Cats enforcer is another who is remembered fondly by supporters and has stepped in as caretaker manager on two occasions in the past. His passion for and knowledge of the club is a matter of record, but it would be a big step to appoint him to the hot-seat with little frontline experience.

Kevin Phillips

A veteran of the Reid side which briefly threatened to break into the top six, the former Saints striker is regarded as a hero on Wearside for the goals he scored in a red and white shirt. He has been quietly making his way as a coach since his retirement and has been linked with the vacancy at the Stadium of Light more than once, although he too lacks experience.

NON LEAGUE FIXTURES

Monday, November 6

SOUTHAMPTON SENIOR CUP
Third round: Team Solent v Hythe & Dibden.

Tuesday, November 7

EVO-STIK SOUTH
Premier: Banbury v Kings Lynn.
BigFreeBet.com Challenge Cup
Second round: AFC Totton v Weymouth, Moneyfields v Basingstoke Town.
SYDENHAMS WESSEX LEAGUE
Premier Division: AFC Portchester v Bournemouth Poppies, Bemerton HH v Shaftesbury.
SWL Cup: Sholing v Petersfield Town, Verwood v Hamworthy Utd.
Division One: Fawley AFC v Downton.
BOURNEMOUTH SENIOR CUP
Brockenhurst v Lymington Town.
SOUTHAMPTON SENIOR CUP
Third round: Hamble Club v Bush Hill.
ALDRSHOT SENIOR CUP
Alton v Bagshot.

Wednesday, November 8

VANARAMA NATIONAL LEAGUE
Chester v Wrexham.
SYDENHAMS WESSEX LEAGUE
Premier Division: Alresford v Andover Town.

Saturday, November 11

VANARAMA NATIONAL LEAGUE
Aldershot Town v AFC Fylde, Barrow v Macclesfield, Boreham Wood v Hartlepool, Dover v Eastleigh, Ebbsfleet v Leyton Orient, FC Halifax v Woking, Guiseley v Bromley, Maidenhead v Gateshead, Solihull Moors v Sutton, Torquay v Maidstone, Tranmere v Dagenham & Redbridge.
VANARAMA NATIONAL LEAGUE SOUTH
Bath v East Thurrock, Bognor Regis v Hampton & Richmond, Chelmsford v Oxford City, Chippenham v St Albans, Gloucester v Whitehawk, Havant & Waterlooville v Hemel Hempstead, Poole Town v Braintree, Truro v Dartford, Wealdstone v Hungerford, Welling v Concord, Weston-super-Mare v Eastbourne Borough.
FA TROPHY

Second qualifying round: Hartley Wintney v Gosport Borough.
EVO-STIK SOUTH
Premier: Basingstoke Town v Biggleswade, Merthyr Town v Banbury, St Ives v Dunstable, Tiverton v Redditch, Weymouth v Kings Langley.
West: AFC Totton v Mangotsfield, Biddeford v Cinderford, Bristol MF v Didcot, Cirencester v Wimborne, Paulton Rovers v North Leigh, Salisbury v Larkhall, Slimbridge v Evesham, Winchester City v Bishops Cleeve, Yate v Swindon Supermarine.
FA VASE

Second round: Baffins Milton Rovers v Cullompton Rangers, Christchurch v Fareham Town, Exmouth Town v Blackfield & Langley, Hamble Club v Brockenhurst, Hordean v Royal Wootton Bassett, Newport IW v Hengrove Athletic, Sholing v Wellington AFC, Team Solent v Tavistock.

SYDENHAMS WESSEX LEAGUE
Premier Division: AFC Portchester v Bemerton HH, Alresford v Bashley, Amesbury v Portland, Cowes Sports v Hamworthy Utd, Petersfield v Andover Town, Shaftesbury v Bournemouth Poppies.
Division One: AFC Stoneham v Romsey, Andover NS v Totton & Eling, Christchurch v Fareham Town, Downton v Alton, Fawley AFC v Verwood, Laverstock & Ford v US Portsmouth, New Milton v East Cowes Vics, Ringwood v Tadley Calvea, Whitchurch v Folland Sports.
NEW FOREST CARE HAMPSHIRE PREMIER LEAGUE

Premier Division: Bush Hill v Hedge End Rangers, Clanfield v Liss Athletic, Colden Common v Stockbridge, Fleetlands v Paulsgrove, Infinity v Locks Heath, Liphook v Hayling Utd, Sway v QK Southampton, Winchester Castle v Overton.
Division One: Lyndhurst v AFC Petersfield, Michelmersh & Timsbury v Four Marks, Netley Central v Headley Utd.
Combination: Hayling Utd v Fleetlands, Headley v Winchester Castle, Overton v Bush Hill, Paulsgrove v Liphook, QK Southampton v Clanfield.

NON LEAGUE

Wessex veterans out in force for charity game



Andy Culliford pictured with Harry Redknapp in 2014.

SYDENHAMS Wessex League veterans will be coming out in force for a charity match next April.

An SWL Vets Select XI, made up of players aged 40 and over, will be taking on a Wales Vets XI at Sholing's Universal Stadium on the evening of Saturday, April 21, 2018 (kick-off time to be confirmed).

A host of local, non-League favourites have already put their names forward, including Team Solent boss James Taylor, ex-Bashley, Salisbury City and Eastleigh striker Paul Sales and former Fareham and Sholing goalkeeper

Lee Webber.

They will be playing in aid of two great causes – The Oakley Waterman Caravan Foundation Trust and the Andy Culliford Benefit Fund.

The Oakley Waterman charity provides respite breaks at two holiday parks in England for children suffering life threatening illnesses. Oakley, son of former Pompey player Dave Waterman, died of a rare form of cancer in 2005. He was just six years old.

Andy Culliford is a former firefighter well-known in Wessex circles from his time playing for Bashley, Wimborne and

Poole Town.

He was diagnosed with motor neurone disease in 2011 and given just two years to live. But here we are approaching the end of 2017 and he is still battling on.

Funds are being raised for a swim spa/therapy pool.

The full list of players already down to play next April is: Lee Webber, Derek Dempsey, Dean Byrne, Jason Mann, Michael Birmingham, Taffy Richardson, Tommy Killick, Ian Buckman, Martyn Raggett, Paul Sales, Matt Hussey, James Taylor, Dave Lewis, Graham Kemp, Mark Smith, Ian Rew.

Encouraging news for Wessex's Waterside club

Wendy Gee



INDICATIONS are that Fawley AFC can look forward to playing at their Long Lane base for many years to come.

Esso Petroleum Company Ltd, owners of the Holbury facility, are working with the Holbury Community Sports Association (HCSA) – consisting of football, cricket, bowls and tennis – to agree a longer-term future for sport on the site.

The Sydenhams Division One club endured some worrying times towards the end of last year following the sudden demise of the Waterside Sports & Social Club due to financial difficulties.

But Esso and the newly-formed HCSA worked together to keep outdoor sports up and running during an unsettling period, since when the oil giants have been “seeking a sustainable way forward.”

A highly encouraging statement issued by ExxonMobil Fawley (Esso) confirmed: “We have undertaken a detailed survey of the changing rooms at the Holbury site and plan to refurbish them.”

“Currently HCSA has a short-term licence to use the sports and changing facilities. However, Esso and HCSA are looking forward to working together for the long-term once all works are completed.

“Esso has already commissioned works to bring the utilities (electricity, water, etc.) in the changing room / outside sports facilities up to standard, before we commence refurbishment work of the changing rooms themselves.

“All work is expected to be completed before April next year and we are working with HCSA to minimise any disruption to their activities and sporting calendar during the refurbishment.

“In addition to the refurbishment of the changing room area,



Fawley's ground at Long Lane.

there have been, and continue to be, upgrades to the outlying fence line, tree line and entrance / exit areas.

“We are grateful to the local community for their patience and understanding while this work is underway.

“We are continuing to review options with regards to the main club buildings.”

Simon Downing, Fawley Refin-

ery manager, said: “The refurbishment reflects our continued commitment to our local community and keeps the sports facilities at the club available for our community.

“We are delighted to support the four sports sections of the Holbury Community Sports Association and look forward to working with them in the future.”

Welcoming the good news, Faw-

ley AFC said: “On behalf of everyone associated with the football club we'd like to thank Simon Downing, Alison Jones and ExxonMobil for their continued support for the amateur sports clubs making up the newly-formed HCSA.

“We can now look forward to promoting the brilliant facilities and encourage new members from the community with our other sports sections.”

NON LEAGUE



Whites take quick action over sexist remarks to physio

SALISBURY have taken swift action against a supporter who admitted to making an offensive sexist remark against Evesham United's female physio last month.

The incident was brought to the Whites' attention by Evesham officials after the 0-0 Evo-Stik South draw at the Raymond McEnhill Stadium on October 21.

The person concerned will be banned from the Ray Mac for four home matches although, for one of those, they have agreed to shadow

Salisbury's head steward for the day.

The club want that person to see the sterling work done by their team of stewards "in making match day a safe and enjoyable experience for supporters."

Part of that job is to clamp down on bad behaviour and personal verbal abuse.

Owned up

An SFC statement explained: "In taking the action we have, we are mindful that the supporter

concerned owned up to the offence.

"But for that, that person could have expected a much longer ban.

"The person has accepted the club's action, which is a mixture of punishment and insight that we hope will prevent any future such issue."

Salisbury's inquiries continued this week into the two people who, in a separate incident, made offensive remarks to the Evesham physio outside the ground after the game.

Any information can be conveyed to the club office and will be treated with the strictest confidence.

"As a club, we do not wish to take the passion or fun out of the game and are aware that fans have a right to vent their opinions," added the club.

"Indeed, we appreciate the large and vocal support we get at the Ray Mac and when we go to away games, and we acknowledge there will be times when fans are legitimately critical.

"However, we hope this episode shows that when comments cross a line into personal, sexist, racist or homophobic language, we will take appropriate action."

EASTLEIGH went into this weekend's home clash with Chester boasting the eighth best average attendance in the top tier of non league football.

The Spitfires were averaging 2,137 - a drop of 4.68 per cent on their 2016/17 average.

National League

	16/17	17/18	+/ -
Tranmere	5173	4,488	-13.24
Wrexham	3892	4371	12.31
Leyton Orient	4663	4227	-9.35
Hartlepool	3787	3537	-6.60
Maidstone	2386	2451	2.72
Aldershot Town	2296	2251	-1.96
Sutton United	1660	2211	33.19
Eastleigh	2242	2137	-4.68
Woking	1430	2076	45.17
Torquay United	1886	1940	2.75
Chester	2031	1866	-8.12
FC Halifax	1810	1771	-2.15
Bromley	1113	1694	52.20
AFC Fylde	1962	1685	-14.12
Maidenhead	1012	1685	66.50
16 Ebbsfleet	1314	1573	19.71
Dagenham & R	1379	1385	0.44
Macclesfield	1455	1345	-7.56
Dover	1295	1276	-1.47
Barrow	1293	1244	-3.79
Solihull	1013	949	-6.32
Guiseley	1035	932	-9.95
Gateshead	910	801	-11.98
Boreham Wood	477	796	66.88

National League South

	16/17	17/18	+/ -
Dartford	998	908	-9.02
Wealdstone	734	876	19.35
Chelmsford City	912	850	-6.80
Havant & W	763	752	-1.44
St Albans City	703	717	1.99
Bognor Regis	550	671	22.00
Bath City	612	641	4.74
Chippenham	459	604	31.59
Eastbourne B	541	538	-0.55
Weston-super-Mare	435	529	21.61
Braintree Town	725	525	-27.59
Welling United	537	518	-3.54
Truro City	402	484	20.40
Hampton & R	636	454	-28.62
Hemel Hemp	486	431	-11.32
Poole Town	570	411	-27.89
Gloucester	494	337	-31.78
East Thurrock	305	333	9.18
Hungerford	318	267	-16.04
Concord	287	263	-8.36
Whitehawk	297	248	-16.50
Oxford City	302	236	-21.85

Southern Lge Premier

	16/17	17/18	+/ -
Hereford	2,821	2,481	-12.05
King's Lynn	544	817	50.18
Weymouth	517	753	45.65
Kettering	502	689	37.25
Slough	631	651	3.17
Dorchester	420	542	29.05
Banbury	388	501	29.12
Hitchin	478	457	-4.39
Merthyr	493	412	-16.43
Redditch	260	350	34.62
Farnborough	276	306	10.87
Bishop's St	355	300	-15.49
Frome	254	298	17.32
Tiverton	266	298	12.03
St Neots	261	293	12.26
Kings Langley	165	287	73.94
Basingstoke	401	285	-28.93
Chesham	324	279	-13.89
St Ives Town	272	268	-1.47
Gosport	461	265	-42.52
Royston	202	254	25.74
Biggleswade	193	238	23.32
Stratford	231	220	-4.76
Dunstable	152	151	-0.66

Southern League West

	16/17	17/18	+/ -
Salisbury	696	582	-16.38
Taunton	425	380	-10.59
Swindon Supermarine	216	249	15.28
Bideford	244	244	0.00
Yate Town	204	240	17.65
Evesham	330	234	-29.09
Winchester City	174	234	34.48
AFC Totton	274	225	-17.88
Wimborne	265	214	-19.25
Barnstaple	249	198	-20.48
Bristol Manor Farm	125	180	44.00
Slimbridge	126	159	26.19
Cirencester	155	154	-0.65
Cinderford	168	140	-16.67
Mangotsfield	172	139	-19.19
Didcot Town	132	130	-1.52
Paulton	133	127	-4.51
Larkhall	154	113	-26.62
Shortwood	108	109	0.93
North Leigh	96	93	-3.12
Bishops Cleeve	139	81	-41.73
Kidlington	65	62	-4.62

Brooks: I wasn't Steve's cup of tea!

Jack Tanner

POOLE Town's returning hero Marvin Brooks has lifted the lid on his surprise exit from Salisbury, claiming he was not boss Steve Claridge's "cup of tea".

Brooks dropped two levels to join the Whites in the summer but this week headed back to the Black Gold Stadium after just five months with the Evo-Stik South West outfit, writes Jack Tanner.

The frontman, who started Poole's 1-1 draw with Concord Rangers on Tuesday, said he was keen to put behind him his brief stay in Wiltshire and focus his attention on helping the Dolphins climb the National League South.

Brooks's stop-start spell with Salisbury began with injury and he struggled to adapt to Claridge's rotation policy, despite enjoying a fruitful scoring run.

Sent off during a 2-0 defeat by Swindon Supermarine in September, Brooks subsequently found himself dropped by Claridge.

"It didn't start too well. But I did manage to go on a bit of a run and scored seven goals in five games," said Brooks.

"He decided to rotate the squad, but I wasn't used to not playing when I was ready to play. With the sending off and suspension, I just couldn't get back in the team.

"But that's just managers - I completely understand that. I don't understand the reasons, but I accept I wasn't his (Claridge's) cup of tea. But everything was dealt with in a fair way."

Ex-Royal Navy serviceman Brooks, whose first spell at Poole started in 2011, was welcomed back by boss Tom Killick who had no hesitation in starting him against Concord.

Will Spetch fired home a leveller on the hour mark in the National League South clash after Ben



Steve Claridge, above.
Tom Killick, below.



Marvin Brooks has returned to Poole Town (Picture: Andy Orman).

Greenhalgh had opened the scoring for the visitors five minutes previously.

Brooks added: "I felt comfortable and Tom helped with that. He understands me as a player and my role, so I slotted back in quite nicely. I knew my position, how we were going to play and I know most of the lads so it was quite an easy transition.

"It was a little strange because there are a few characters missing, like Michael Walker and Luke Burridge.

"But I know the character of most of the lads and know there is enough about them that we won't get relegated. Performances like this, coming back from 1-0 down, show that."

Discussing his return, Brooks

said: "I never considered anywhere else because Tom was so hot on my heels for me to come back!

"He kept up to date with my situation at Salisbury and what was going on. It showed me that there was no animosity regarding the move.

"I knew that I could get regular football at a good level, with a manager that understands how I play and I understand him, so there was no other option."

NON LEAGUE



House party for Lewis

LYMINGTON Town boss Dave Lewis made a victorious return to his old club Newport IW on Tuesday.

The damage was done inside the opening 11 minutes at St George's Park as two-goal marksman Sam House set Lymo on their way to a 2-1 Sydenhams Premier Division victory.

First House threaded a low shot through the Port defence and, for the second, he outpaced a defender before driving home his 14th goal of the season.

Rock bottom Newport hit back at the start of the second half when Jared Wetherick was fouled and Aiden Sainsbury drilled home a spot kick.

However, Port's chances of a comeback were weakened on 53 minutes



Sam House.

when Spike Pearce picked up a second yellow card.

Ashley Jarvis should have increased Lymo's lead when keeper Gary Streeter lost possession outside the area but, with the goal gaping, he failed to net.

● THE Wessex League are on the lookout for a new secretary for the 2018/19 season. John Gorman, who currently holds the role, has said he will not be standing for re-election at the league's annual general meeting in June.

Applications should be directed to Gorman at leaguesecretary.wessexleague@gmail.com who will advise them of the duties carried out. Ideal candidates should be interested in local football and be computer literate with Word and Excel programmes.

The post is voluntary but out-of-pocket expenses will be paid.



Matty Holmes

'Soul-destroying' Trophy thrashing

MATTY Holmes described as "soul-destroying" the torrid 27-minute spell during which Wimborne Town's FA Trophy hopes went up in smoke.

Magpies suffered a 5-0 thrashing at Evo-Stik South East outfit Thame United - all the goals arriving during a disastrous first-half.

Lynton Goss fired a 21-minute hat-trick and further goals from Dan West and Harry Mephram

banked £3,250 for the reigning Hellenic League Premier Division champions.

Reflecting on a nightmare first qualifying round tie, Magpies boss Holmes said: "It was a real kick in the teeth."

"There was a spell where we were bashed by Lynton Goss and Dan West and our defenders couldn't handle them, which was soul-destroying because, in gen-

eral terms, we kept the ball well.

"Those two boys were awesome and we crumbled in that 27-minute period. I hope it's a one-off."

To add to Wimborne's woes, Scott Arnold was substituted midway through the first half as a precaution. Holmes was concerned his influential skipper was still feeling the effects of a groin injury.

Ex-Spitfire Mandron impressing for Us

Wendy Gee



FORMER Eastleigh striker Mikael Mandron was named in the English Football League's team-of-the-week for the end of October.

The 23-year-old Frenchman was the two-goal hero of Colchester United's 3-1 home win over Crewe Alexandra in SkyBet League Two.

The Us came from behind to take all three points - Mandron netting in the 39th and 79th minutes.

Mandron joined Eastleigh on a two-year contract in the summer of 2016 following his release from Sunderland.

He was sold to Wigan Athletic for undisclosed fee in January this year, but made just one start and two substitute appearances for The Latics.

The 6ft 3in frontman was on the move again in the summer, signing a two-year deal for Colchester.

He opened his Us account with the equaliser in a 1-1 draw with Stevenage on August 12 and has now scored six goals in 18 appearances.

Mandron has been regularly partnering Brandon Hanlan in Colchester's attack and is enjoying playing alongside the Charlton Athletic loanee.

"We both work really hard, both on the pitch and in training, to try and link up," he said.

"I'm getting there little by little with the goals and hopefully I'll be in double figures soon."

Mandron has played more times for Colchester than any other outfield player so far this term, a firm indication of the esteem in which Us' head coach John McGreal holds the forward.

"I think the fans and even his own teammates are now seeing what type of performances he can put in for us," said McGreal.

Joining Mandron in the EFL



Mikael Mandron celebrates scoring for Colchester. Right - Sam Surridge.

team-of-the-week was 19-year-old frontman Sam Surridge, currently on loan to Yeovil Town from AFC Bournemouth.

Surridge netted his third and fourth goals of the campaign in a 3-0 SkyBet League Two win over Stevenage at Huish Park.

Part of the Cherries' academy since the age of 14, Wimborne-raised Surridge has previously had loan spells with non-League duo Weymouth and Poole Town.

"It was a great performance by Sam, not just for his age," said Yeovil boss Darren Way. "Every game that these players play, they're gaining more experience, they're gaining more confidence and they look like they're enjoying it, and that's a big, big thing."

Saints loanee Olufela Olomola netted Yeovil's other goal - prior to be sent off for his part in a melee involving most of the two teams.



NON LEAGUE



Cup specialists Magpies win in the Forest



Geoff Dunn, left.

ALRESFORD Town will travel to Hamble Club in the Sydenhams League Cup after a 2-1 win at Bashley on Tuesday

Bash saw plenty of the ball, yet could easily have lost by more but for the heroics of goalkeeper Mike Edgar, named the Foresters' man-of-the-match.

Young winger Patrick Spiteri, dual-signed from Weymouth, gave Bash a different dimension going forward.

But, after a goalless first-half it was Alresford who seized the lead when Lukas McCartney

headed down Stuart Munro's corner for Geoff Dunn to hook home - the former Winchester City man's fifth goal in five games.

Spiteri played his part in Bashley's leveller, embarking on a fine run down the wing and passing inside for Harry McGrath whose low delivery was turned in at the far post by Brad Strickland.

A penalty shootout looked on the cards until young keeper Edgar claimed the ball just outside his area, but took out

Chris Mason at the same time.

Edgar performed heroics to keep Sam Burt's free-kick out of the top corner, but the ball landed at the feet of Aaron Blaxall who tapped in the Magpies' winner.

Alresford could potentially have plenty of silverware on the shelf. The Sydenhams Premier outfit are through to the quarter-finals of both the Andover Open Cup and North Hants Senior Cup and are in the last 16 of the Sydenhams League Cup, the Hampshire FA Senior Cup and the Southampton Senior Cup.

Tom treble in Samuels' best win

TOM Donaldson was destroyer-in-chief as Romsey Town won their top-five Sydenhams One clash 3-1 at Ringwood Town.

Having nodded in Wayne Boud's cross at the far post, Donaldson saw that lead wiped out when Lee Vint headed home unmarked just before the break.

But two goals in the last ten minutes put Town back in the ascendancy.

Boud was again the creator, whipping in a free-kick which Donaldson got the slightest of touches on for his second of the match.

Young substitute Elliott Mitchell-Lee then won a penalty and man-of-the-moment Donaldson sent the

AFC TOTTON'S under-18s won a dramatic penalty shootout to book their place in the FA Youth Cup first round proper.

The young Stags were held 2-2 by Ash United after 90 minutes at the Total Branding Community Stadium - Charlie Hennan and Harry Prisk netting Totton's goals, writes **WENDY GEE**.

The scoreline remained that way after extra-time, despite Ash being reduced to ten men.

It was neck-and-neck at 2-2 in the shootout before the tide turned Totton's way when keeper Connor Nolan saved Ash's third penalty after the Stags had buried theirs.

Both teams scored with their fourth attempt and it was left to James Harding to net Totton's winner, earning them a home tie against Cheltenham Town (date to be confirmed).

EASTLEIGH'S young guns reached the end of the road in the FA Youth Cup at Plymouth Argyle on Tuesday.

The Spitfires' under-18s bowed out 7-2 in the first round proper at Home Park.

Set-pieces proved to be Eastleigh's undoing as they slipped 4-0 into arrears in the opening 25 minutes, punished by goals from Tom Purrington (2), Matthew Ward and Luke Jephcott (penalty).

Despite the scoreline, Luke Hardy's young Spitfires enjoyed plenty of possession and were rewarded for their efforts when Tom Bearwish headed home Aaron Lobb's corner on the stroke of half-time.

The Spitfires came out buzzing after the break and struck again on 55 minutes when a poor goal kick by Pilgrims stopper Michael Cooper was charged down and Bearwish cashed in with a deflected effort that looped out of the keeper's reach.

The 18-year-old Eastleigh marksman might have grabbed a third moments later when the ball was whipped high into the Argyle area, but a combination of defender and goalkeeper denied him.

Cameron Sangster turned the tide back Plymouth's way with

Stags win in Youth Cup - but Spitfires are hit for seven in Devon



Tom Bearwish (blue).

a free-kick that cannoned in off the foot of the helpless George Coombes for a 65th-minute own goal, making it 5-2. And Sangster claimed Plymouth's sixth himself, expertly finding the top corner.

Eastleigh keeper Cameron Stan-

tford-Harvey stood up well to keep out Jephcott's strike and was quickly off his line to deny Klaidi Lolos, while Ryan Meaney's solid challenge denied the hosts another breakthrough.

The busy Bearwish attempted to

hit Plymouth on the counter only to be stopped by a lunging Ryan Law challenge and Eastleigh were dealt a final blow when sub Rio Garside slotted in from close range on 88 minutes.



Andy Samuels

'keeper the wrong way to crown his hat-trick.

Delighted Town manager Andy Samuels said. "It's my most pleasing win of the season.

"We've gone through a frustrating patch, but we had a positive team meeting on Thursday and trained on a few aspects that needed looking at.

"The players responded very well.

"Ringwood have been on a good run of form of late, so to come away with a win is fantastic.

"Now we need to keep our focus and maintain our position in the top four."



Tom Donaldson

The Lincoln baby boom

Rocketing attendance figures and an unlikely baby boom are just two of the legacies of Lincoln City's historic run to last year's FA Cup quarter-finals.

The Red Imps renewed their acquaintance with the competition this weekend at Wimbledon seven months after becoming the first non-league team in 103 years to reach the last eight.

The after-effect of the club's epic quest is still palpable in the region, both at a club which is now firmly ensconced back in League 2, and in the broader city's burgeoning population.

For Imps boss Danny Cowley, the financial boost his club received from their remarkable cup run pales when compared with the wider legacy which he hopes will secure the club's long-term future.

Cowley said: "I believe there is a baby boom off the back of our success last year - it's amazing to see the massive influence the run has had on the whole city."

"The buzz from what we did last year is still there. This time last year we were struggling to get past Guiseley in the fourth qualifying round and we were playing in front of gates of two and a half thousand in the National League."

"Now we are playing in front of up to 10,000 and the club's soccer schools are full of kids wearing Lincoln City shirts. For us the legacy is the biggest thing. Our aim is to use the money from



Lincoln City manager Danny Cowley (left) with assistant manager Nicky Cowley

the cup run to build an infrastructure which can bring sustainable success."

Cowley and Lincoln provide a refreshing antidote to the increasing number of managers and clubs, now stretching down into the lower divisions, who regard the FA Cup as an unwelcome distraction to the primary aim of league success.

Locked in a desperate battle to regain their place in the Football League, Cowley's men could have been forgiven for following the same route, but instead harnessed the momentum of their list of cup scalps to achieve an improbable double.

"A lot of people said it would affect our league form because we played a huge amount of games but we drew real confidence from beating Oldham, Ipswich, Brighton and Burnley."

"It definitely held us in really good stead for the business end of the season. We got to April and we had some really big league games but we felt as a group that we'd already experienced that and knew what it took to win."

"I'm adamant that the confidence we generated from the cup competition really helped us in terms of going on to win the league."

NON LEAGUE

East Cowes pull off shock win at Laverstock



Robbie Lakeman

EAST Cowes Vics pulled off the shock result of last weekend's Sydenhams Wessex One programme.

On paper the lowly Islanders shouldn't have had a prayer away to league leaders Laverstock & Ford.

Yet, not only did they travel back across The Solent with three unlikely points in tow - they scored four goals into the bargain through Jimmi Burton (2), Alek Przespolewski and Jordan Browne.

"We never got going, it's quite simple. The lads know it," said stunned Lavvy co-bossed Liam McConnell and Rob Lakeman.

"There's no hiding place in this side, we have to take it on the chin and show character as a group and come back stronger."

Vics' shock win spelt bad news for Folland Sports, who were cut three points adrift at the foot of the table following a 4-2 home defeat by Fawley AFC.

Two-goal Kieran Roche, Ben Bolton and Mark Lilley put the Oilers in the clear before Billy Drever and Ashley Simmonds hit back for Follands.

Bolton has made a welcome return to the Fawley ranks after a spell with Sydenhams Premier outfit Bashley.

The Oilers reserves were involved in a high-scoring encounter with Baffins Milton Rovers on Tuesday, losing 7-5.

Craig Shellard (3) and Lilley (2) bagged the Fawley goals.

Langdown: A shot in the arm to keep hold of Craig

Wendy Gee



AFC TOTTEN boss Louis Langdown is chuffed to have kept striker Craig Feeney in the Testwood Park fold.

Salisbury's Steve Claridge had been talking about the need to reinforce his strike force long before Marvin Brooks's return to Poole Town this week.

So it came as no great surprise when the Whites manager came knocking at Totton's door for Feeney.

While the Stags striker has had a low-key start to the season in terms of scoring, his partnership with attacking midfielder Stuart Green - now a Salisbury player - was key in netting him 35 goals for Winchester City last term.

Salisbury lodged notice of approach but, after weighing up his options, Feeney decided to remain a Stag.

"I'm so happy to retain the services of Craig after the seven-day approach from Salisbury," said Langdown.

"Salisbury are arguably the biggest side in our league in terms of support, infrastructure and budget, so it was a shot in the arm to keep him."

"We are working to make individuals better, and the team better as a consequence, and Craig has been very supportive of that approach, as have the other lads."

Langdown is also appreciative of his players' willingness to operate outside their comfort zone if injuries, suspensions and unavailability dictates.

Rather than rock the boat - and strain the budget - by searching for replacements outside the group, the Stags boss prefers to put faith in his players' versatility.



Totton's Alfie Whittingham in action against Didcot last weekend.

"We knew at the start of the season that we might be under-strength in some positions once an injury or suspension kicked in, but we signed players that could fit into more than one role for the side," Langdown explained.

"Charlie (Gunson) has played up top, Callum (York) at right-back, Jack (Masterton) at left-back, Alfie (Whittingham) right wing... to name a few."

"This will continue as we simply don't have the resources to replace players and, right now, the players get along great and that's an important part of manage-

ment at this level.

"The atmosphere has always been key for me, Adam (Wilde, assistant manager) and Jamie (Cotton, goalkeeper coach). We want a close-knit group that know they will play and not be replaced should they have one or two indifferent performances."

"We cannot afford to carry players in a large squad and this keeps everyone in sight of a game."

Given the youthfulness of Totton's squad, a certain amount of inconsistency is to be expected.

But when the Stags are good, they are very, very good - as wit-

nessed in the first-half against high-flying Didcot Town last weekend.

For 45 minutes, the Railwaymen had no answer to Totton's hunger, energy and movement as goals by loan striker Tony Lee and Whittingham sent them in at the break 2-0 up.

Didcot hit back at the start of the second half, but the Stags held strong for a deserved 2-1 victory.

"We're not going to play excellent football for 90 minutes every game, but we've just beaten third in the league, so we've got to be happy," smiled Langdown.

NON LEAGUE



Netley have 'always punched above our weight'



Netley Central Sports

NETLEY Central Sports have been given £250 for leading local housebuilder Taylor Wimpey Southern Counties to buy new kit and equipment.

The Hampshire Premier League club - based near to Taylor Wimpey's Kingfisher Grange development in Bursledon - will use the money to buy kit, footballs and medical equipment.

Football club chairman James Langdown says: "This club has been going since 1901, and always performed at a good level - we've always punched

above our weight.

"But it costs around £3,500 a year to run the club, and it's always very tight to fund everything. We couldn't keep going without our sponsors and donors, so we're very grateful to Taylor Wimpey."

Langdown added: "We attract good players because we perform at a good level."

"Now we're looking to expand by adding better facilities and either a junior team or a woman's team - but that needs more funding!"

Ramdin the toast of history-making Sholing U18

Sholing Under-18s have made history.

A 2-0 home win over Clevedon on Thursday night took the young Boatmen into the second round of the FA Youth Cup - the furthest the club have ever progressed in the tournament.

Jean-Luc Ramdin struck twice in extra time, in front of a vocal crowd of 227, to set up a tie against either Leyton Orient or Biggleswade Town, who meet next Wednesday.

Sholing certainly like to do things the hard way.

Not only did they need extra time to see off Clevedon, but in the second and third qualifying rounds they had beaten Team Solent and Aldershot Town on penalties.

They now must await the winners of the tie next Wednesday (8th Nov) between Leyton Orient & Biggleswade Town.

Chairperson Carly Kinsey said: "I am so proud of the whole team, as well as all the supporters that turned out to support this amazing cup run."

"This was an amazing result and thoroughly deserved."

"Yet again this match shows



Jean-Luc Ramdin.

how Sholing FC's development ethos is working."

Patrick McGonigle, the U18s manager, added: "The players have done themselves and the club proud."

"The boys showed maturity and confidence to dominate against a hard working Clevedon Town side."

"They limited the opposition to rare opportunities and with better finishing and a bit more luck they could have finished the game earlier."

"Two well taken goals by Jean-Luc was only what they deserved."

"With a combination of first year under 18s and development players managed by myself and Steve Blackburn, it shows the future is bright for Sholing."

Sholing first team boss Dave Diaper was also present, and he said: "We've managed to give four of the team from tonight first team run outs so far this season, and seeing this game it won't be long before we blood a few more in."

"We are leading the way in giving youth a chance - living proof that the Sholing DNA is working."

Diaper chose Ramdin for the man of the match award.

Killick: Why we let Luke join Magpies

Wendy Gee



POOLE Town boss Tom Killick admitted Luke Burbidge's departure to Wimborne Town had been sanctioned in order to avoid uncertainty over the winger's future.

Burbidge, who was midway through a second month on loan with the Magpies, has sealed a permanent move to Evo-Stik South West club.

Wimborne initially asked to extend the loan but eventually both parties agreed the former Cherries youngster would depart permanently.

Killick, who is battling to save Poole from National League South relegation, explained: "I felt I couldn't allow the situation to remain uncertain any longer."

Clarity

"We need clarity in terms of whether Luke is our player or not as, with a small squad, we have to plan ahead and utilise our resources in the best possible way."

"Not knowing if Luke was going to return or not was making that difficult. By our standards, Luke is a well-paid player and we need to utilise every penny we have to try to improve our league position."

Burbidge made 227 appearances for Dolphins after joining from



Luke Burbidge in action for Wimborne Town in September.

Hamworthy United, proving a key cog in the club's meteoric rise up the non-League ladder.

Killick added: "It's fair to say Luke's initial decision to leave when we were enduring such a difficult time was difficult for me to accept."

"However, Luke has to make decisions he feels are in his own best interests and I understand that."

"He has been an exceptional player for me and I have great affection for him. He has been central to the success we have had

over recent seasons.

"I would like to thank Luke for all his efforts and everything he has helped us achieve."

"He and his family will always be welcome at Poole and I wish him the best of luck in his future career and life generally."

5 things you can't miss in the racing week ...

MORNING MELBOURNE GLORY?

Racing fans will have to be up before the larks on Tuesday morning if they want to catch the Emirates Melbourne Cup live from Flemington. Once again there is plenty of European interest with Hughie Morrison's Marmelo and the Hugo Palmer-trained Wall Of Fire leading the northern hemisphere charge for 'the race that stops a nation', while the likes of Aidan and Joseph O'Brien, as well as Willie Mullins, are expected to be represented. There is an extra dimension to this year's contest with Frankie Dettori, who hit the crossbar a couple of years ago aboard Max Dynamite, now teaming up with last year's winner Almandin.

EXETER GOLD

Exeter's main card of the year also takes place on Tuesday, although at a more reasonable hour for British fans. The 188Bet Haldon Gold Cup is the feature event, with the Grade Two contest boasting such luminaries as Cue Card, Edredon Bleu, Azertyuiop and the great Best Mate on its roll of honour. Sir Valentino lifted the prize for Tom George in 2016 and is on course for another crack.

ELITE SHOW

Wincanton is the place to be on Saturday for quality jumps action, highlighted by the Stan James Elite Hurdle. Sceau Royal gave jockey Daryl Jacob a record third win in the race last year and while he fell short of the top level, he is shaping up to be a leading novice chaser this term. The Grade Two Rising Stars Novices' Chase is another of the highlights, as is the Badge Ales Trophy Handicap Chase.

FAREWELL TO THE FLAT

Doncaster hosts the traditional farewell to the Flat season proper with the Betfred November Handicap providing the feature action. Champions Day now marks the official finale to the Flat championships, but there is still plenty on offer on Town Moor with the mile-and-a-half affair usually a stiff test of stamina on proper autumn ground.

FORTRIA FEATURE

Navan race on Sunday with thetote.com Fortria Chase showcasing the two-mile chasers. Moscow Flyer, Big Zeb and Flemenstar have all claimed the Grade Two in the past. The Grade Three For Auction Hurdle and the Lismullen Hurdle, which is a Grade Two, could provide some pointers ahead of another big winter of action.

FIXTURES

(FLAT in capitals)

Monday: KEMPTON, Plumpton, Southwell
Tuesday: Exeter, KEMPTON, REDCAR, WOLVERHAMPTON
Wednesday: Chepstow, KEMPTON, Musselburgh, NOTTINGHAM
Thursday: CHELMSFORD, Ludlow, Market Rasen, Newbury
Friday: Fontwell, Hexham, NEWCASTLE, Warwick
Saturday: Aintree, DONCASTER (ITV4), Kelso, Wincanton (ITV4), WOLVERHAMPTON
Sunday: Ffos Las, Sandown.

NON LEAGUE

Hampshire FA unveil Mayflower partnership

Hampshire FA have entered into a one-year Community, Leisure & Recreation partnership with The Mayflower Theatre in Southampton.

There will be a focus on delivering short and long term projects for the benefit of the local community. Additionally, the partnership will see giveaway prizes in the year and member packages promoted on various events on an ad-hoc basis.

"We are delighted to partner with Hampshire FA - all my children have participated in football

at a local level so I am personally aware of the great work that takes place at the grass roots," said Mayflower Chief Executive Michael Ockwell.

"We are an organisation that is passionate about offering young people opportunities to engage in the creative arts and there is a real synergy with sport in ensuring that access is available for all abilities."

Neil Cassar, the Hampshire FA Chief Executive, added: "We are delighted to be working with the Mayflower and to introduce a

new community partner to our programme.

"Mayflower Theatre is a prestigious attraction in our county, bound with a long history and legacy much like our own association."

"The partnership will see Hampshire FA communicate to a diverse range of audiences."

"We will also be featured as a partner in the brochures increasing awareness of our brand and what we represent as an organisation in non-football environments."



Michael Ockwell, left, with Neil Cassar.

We haven't seen the best of Chalky - Malone



Ben White

Wendy Gee



WINCHESTER City have released attacking midfielder Ben 'Chalky' White to allow him to get more game time elsewhere.

White was one of group of players to follow manager Craig Davis down from Fleet Town where he had scored 20-plus goals a season over three campaigns.

But he struggled to break into the City side after uprooting from the north Hampshire club over the summer.

Explaining the departure of the former Eastleigh and Romsey Town man, director of football Dave Malone said: "I have known Chalky for about ten years, man and boy, and I know what a good player he can be."

"Unfortunately, since joining us, Chalky has not been able to hold down a regular first-team place and I think it's fair to say that we have never seen the best of him."

"We have therefore agreed that Chalky needs to find regular first-team football in order to reproduce his best form."

"He leaves on good terms with the door left ajar for a possible return sometime in the future."

"Good luck to Chalky, we will watch his progress with interest."

Meanwhile manager Craig Davis spoke of the need for one or two defence-minded players in the wake of City's jaw-dropping 5-4 Friday night defeat at home to Salisbury.

While many of the 623 crowd left the Simplyhealth City Ground doubtful that they would see a more thrilling Evo-Stik South West contest this season, that was scant consolation for the Citizens who contrived to surrender a 3-0 lead.

City even managed to get their noses in front again after Salisbury had pegged them back to 3-3, only to be undone by two late goals. Lewis Benson made it 4-4 with a quality free-kick and the winner was a fluke cross from Tom Whelan.

"Our performance going forward, particularly first-half, was absolutely outstanding," said Davis. "They didn't know how to handle it."

"We are better going forward than we are at the back, there's no two ways about it."

"We get ahead in games and maybe we need to think about one or two players who are a bit more defensive-minded and a bit more experienced to see games through."

"At the moment we're leading games but not getting the points we need."

"Until we rectify that we'll be a decent side, in and around it, but for me we're good enough to be right up there."

"Salisbury have nearly gone second (in the league) and, if anyone has watched that today and thinks we're not as good as them, I'm not having that. We more than matched them."

"It was an extremely disappointing result, but the game was a good advert for the Southern League."

Got a sports story for us? We'd love to hear from you. Email words and pictures to echosport@dailyecho.co.uk

NON LEAGUE



Southampton hit back after 'terrible' first half display



Emma Pinner (red) in action for Southampton Women.

Southampton Women's FC played their first league game in over a month as they travelled to Bristol to face Brislington Town.

But the delay didn't harm them as they maintained their perfect FA Women's Premier League SW Div 1 record with a 5-1 victory.

But it wasn't as easy as the scoreline suggests, with manager Simon Parker describing his side's first half effort as "terrible."

After losing to Portsmouth FC Ladies in the FAWPL Cup a fortnight ago, Southampton fell behind after only four minutes.

But the visitors responded, with Yeates narrowly missing a header and then crossing

for Laura Vokes to see her header saved.

Southampton were lucky, however, not to fall further behind when a header struck the woodwork and rebounded into keeper Mille Peake's arms.

Brislington continued to pressure and Manu Naprta and Amie Barnett worked hard to soak up the pressure and clear the ball.

In an end to end contest, Peake made a fine double save and the home keeper saved from Phil Holden.

On the stroke of half time, Emma Pinner slipped a well weighted ball through to Vokes to bring Southampton level.

Four minutes into the

second half and the visitors levelled, Pinner on target.

With 18 minutes remaining, Nat Bavister thumped home from 30 yards and Cassie Thorp finished off a smooth 15-pass move on 90 minutes.

Southampton weren't finished yet and Vokes set up Bell-Jack to head a fifth in injury time.

Boss Parker said: "I was really impressed with the response from the players after a terrible first half performance."

"We started to play the great football we can and moved the ball with one and two touch passes."

"We looked dangerous and controlled the game for the second half."

Sunderland facing a double drop

Sunderland are in danger of suffering the ignominy of back-to-back relegations to League One.

The Black Cats, who finished bottom of the Premier League last term, sacked Simon Grayson on Tuesday with the club in the Championship's bottom three.

Only two clubs in the Premier League era - Swindon and Wolves - have dropped down those two tiers in consecutive years.

Swindon

Relegated from the top flight in 1994; relegated from the second tier in 1995

Player-manager Glenn Hoddle delivered top-flight football to Wiltshire for the first time in the Robins' history when they won the play-off final in 1993, yet he left for Chelsea before the Premier League campaign so former assistant John Gorman stepped up to the post. Swindon failed to win any of their first 15 games and conceded 100 times en route to relegation back to the second tier.

Gorman's team won six of their opening 11 league fixtures in 1994/95 but picked up just one point from their next six games and the Scot was sacked in November. The Swindon board hired former England midfielder Steve McMahon but he could not prevent another demotion.

Swindon were promoted back to the second level under McMahon at the first time of asking but they would slip down another two levels again, becoming the first club to have played in the Premier League



Simon Grayson

to be relegated to League 2 in 2006. It is at that level where the Robins now find themselves.

Wolves

Relegated from the top flight in 2012; relegated from the second tier in 2013

The midlands club's three-year stay in the Premier League was ended with three games to go in 2012. Mick McCarthy's five-and-a-half-year reign was ended in February that season, following a 5-1 home thrashing by local rivals West Brom.

McCarthy's assistant Terry Connor took charge for the remainder of the campaign but failed to win any of his games at the helm.

Wolves had a change of direction ahead of their Championship tilt, hiring Norwegian Stale Solbakken. The initial signs were good - with Wolves third in early October - but an FA Cup loss to non-league Luton saw him jettisoned in January. Dean Saunders came in from Doncaster but could not arrest the slide and he was axed shortly after another relegation was confirmed.

Kenny Jackett became Wolves' fifth permanent boss in 16 months and reversed the decline, winning promotion with a 103-point haul in the first of his three years in charge. The club now have Portuguese Nuno Espirito Santo in charge and lead the way in the Championship after 15 games.

Hampshire derby next up for Catlin

GOSPORT Borough have been drawn away in the FA Trophy second qualifying round - but they don't have far to travel.

Mick Catlin's men have landed an all-Hampshire tie at Hartley Wintney on Saturday week (November 11, 3pm).

Hartley Wintney are enjoying their first ever Trophy campaign, having been promoted as Combined Counties League champions last term.

The north Hampshire outfit currently sit third in the Evo-Stik South West, while Borough are rock-bottom of the Evo-Stik South Premier, having picked up just one point from their opening 15 league games.

Catlin, appointed successor to Alex Pike at the end of September, celebrated his first win in charge last Saturday as Gosport saw off lower league Bristol Manor Farm 1-0 thanks to an Alfie Lis goal.

"The target now is to start picking up points in the league," said Catlin.

Of the Trophy draw, the Borough boss added: "If we apply ourselves like we did in the last round, then we will give ourselves half a chance."

Hartley Wintney swept past Swindon Supermarine 3-0 in Wiltshire on Saturday thanks to a Jake Baxter penalty, Rowan Vine and Jack French.

Former Portsmouth, Luton and QPR striker Vine, who was mak-



FLASHBACK: Gosport Borough pictured with the FA Trophy in 2014. Left to right: Former striker Tim Sills, ex-manager Alex Pike, Brett Poate (now of Moneyfields) and current Gosport boss Mick Catlin.

ing his debut for The Row, is a former Gosport player.

Welcoming the Trophy draw, Hartley's joint manager Daniel Brownlie said: "We were looking forward to the game regardless of who we got in the draw, but the

fact there is now a local spice to it just makes it even better.

"We're aware Gosport haven't had the greatest start to the season, but this is cup football and I'm sure they'll be using this fixture as a chance to reignite their

campaign.

"It's another opportunity to test ourselves against higher league opposition. We've got a number of games before then so it's not our focus, but it'll be something to look forward to."

Moneyfields' reward for edging past Yate Town 1-0 away is a home tie against Cray Wanderers.

Moneys - sitting proudly aloft the Evo-Stik South East - had skipper Steve Hutchings' early volley to thank for firing through to the second qualifying round.

Last season's Sydenhams Premier runners-up also hit the woodwork four times - Ryan Pennery twice striking the post. Hutchings denied by the bar and Jake Raine also shaking the goal frame.

Former Saints Academy and AFC Totton goalkeeper Steve Mowthorpe played his part with a crucial late save.

Although it is Moneyfields' first time in the FA Trophy, a handful of their players have gone far in the competition.

Brett Poate, Sam Pearce and Dan Wooden all went to Wembley with Gosport Borough for the 2014 final, which ended in a gallant 4-0 defeat to Cambridge United.

Moneys midfielder Lewis Fennemore also marched to The Arch that year with Sholing in the FA Vase - the Boatmen lifting the silverware with a 1-0 win over West Auckland Town.

Email your sports stories to echosport@dailyecho.co.uk

Top flight's record goalscorers

Sergio Aguero this week scored his 178th goal for Manchester City to move past Eric Brook as the club's record goalscorer.

Here, the Sports Pink looks at the men to hold the honour for all 20 current Premier League clubs.

Arsenal

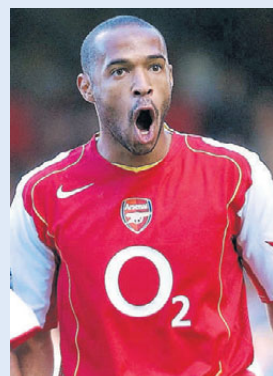
Thierry Henry - 228 goals in 377 appearances, 1999-2007 and 2012. The Frenchman is the only player to win the Premier League's Golden Boot four times. He first won it in 2001/02 (24 goals) before starting a hat-trick of awards with a 30-goal haul in the Gunners' 'Invincibles' campaign of 2003/04. Also scored 25 goals in 2004/05 and 27 goals in 2005/06.

Bournemouth

Ron Eyre - 229 goals in 337 appearances, 1924-33. Eyre plundered all his Cherries goals in Division 3 South.

Brighton

Tommy Cook - 123 goals in 209 appearances, 1922-29. Incredibly, the Seagulls' leading goalscorer of all time also played over 450 first class games for Sussex County Cricket Club, he played 460 first



Thierry Henry

class games for Sussex, making over 20,000 runs with 32 centuries!

Burnley

George Beel - 187 goals in 377 appearances, 1922-32. Signed from Division 3 club Chesterfield, Beel struck 35 goals in 39 top flight games in 1927/28 and added 30 more in 41 appearances in 1929/30.

Chelsea

Frank Lampard - 211 goals in 648 appearances, 2001-14. A remarkable achievement in the modern game, and even more so as Lampard was an attacking central midfielder who never played as a striker. Netted double figures in the Premier League for 10 straight seasons between 2003 and 2013, while his most prolific season was in 2009/10 when he struck 27 times in all competitions.

Crystal Palace

Peter Simpson - 165 goals in 195 appearances, 1929-35. After scoring 36 goals in his debut season for Palace in 1929/30, following his arrival from non league Kettering, he struck 46 times in 1930-31 including a double hat-trick in a 7-2 win over Exeter City.

Continued on facing page

SAINTS

This way **isn't** the

Peter Howard



MAURICIO Pellegrino has been employed in to a very complex job at Saints during a very complicated time for the club.

After ten games, it would seem that Pellegrino's inexperience as a top level boss is showing itself and it really isn't clear at the moment whether or not he will make a success of this job.

The situation he inherited from last season is a tricky animal to start with and is something that has impacted on his early tenure.

Claude Puel became the first Saints manager since Nigel Adkins in 2013 to be sacked in June, but it wasn't as if the now Leicester City manager was a failure.

Far from it.

Puel probably got the very maximum out of his squad and was able to tick virtually every single box that he was asked to by the club's hierarchy.

He managed to bring through academy players who were pretty much lost causes when he turned up, got Saints to a League Cup final, AND they finished eighth in the Premier League.

But it was his style of play, lack of charisma and relationships in the dressing room and with fans that led to his demise.

This set up a pretty strange situation for Pellegrino to walk in to, being tasked with taking Saints back to the point of over-achieving in an era that isn't overly conducive to doing so, having also replaced a manager who didn't do too much wrong.

He would be doing very well to even match what Puel's team were able to achieve in terms of league position and progress in cup competition.

He would also be doing very well to bring through academy players like Puel was able to do, although granted without the Europa League he doesn't have as many games to try out new players.

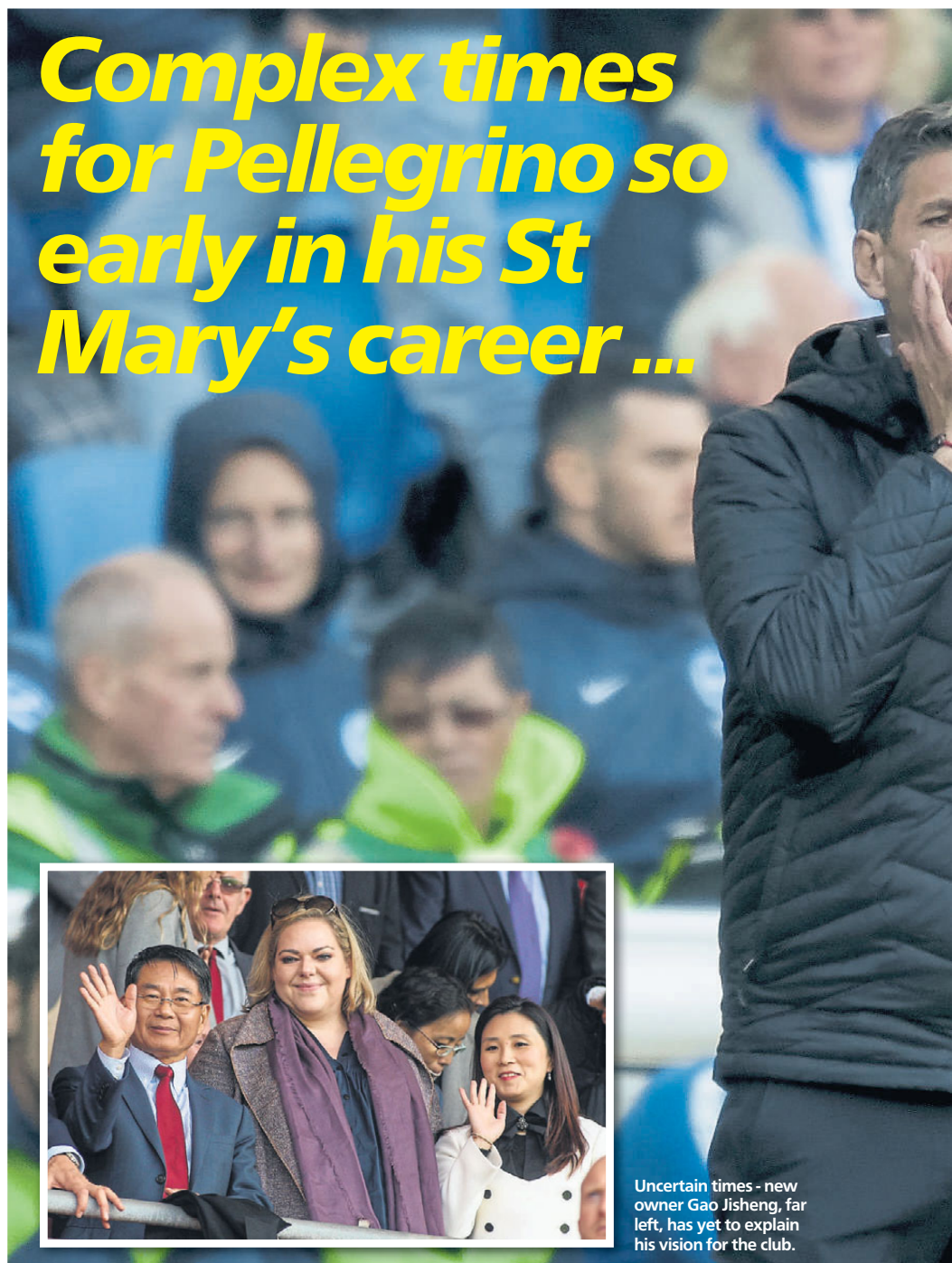
With the Premier League's top six now miles ahead of the rest after big transfer market investment, there is less scope to achieve what Saints did under Ronald Koeman the season before last, finishing sixth.

That was the same season Leicester won the league and that was a rare anomaly in football's usual order.

But emulating Koeman is what is demanded of Pellegrino and, to top that, he has to do it by ridding the team of the inhibitions it suffered under Puel.

It doesn't stop there, either, because the appetite for Saints to

Complex times for Pellegrino so early in his St Mary's career ...



Uncertain times - new owner Gao Jisheng, far left, has yet to explain his vision for the club.

once again be an over-achieving team, playing exciting attacking football, is big and something that weighs like an anvil around the team's neck, especially when they play at St Mary's in front of their expectant fans.

This expectation is something again that Pellegrino has had to manage.

It wasn't so long ago that play-

ers and managers spoke about reaching the Champions League and Saints managed to finish in European qualification positions.

That, and the impatience after Puel's reign, has unsurprisingly set the bar unrealistically high and the fuse very short at St Mary's.

The boo boys have been out in force already.

Saints are squirming uncomfortably with their place in the football world right now.

They are in a place where they can remember the high times and when big promises were made about the direction of the club.

But they are now in a position where the course the team and club as a whole is very unclear.

You've got the previous owner,

SAINTS



Southampton Way



Jack Stephens was harshly dropped by Mauricio Pellegrino earlier this season.



Claude Puel



Les Reed promised 'exciting, attacking football' when Mauricio Pellegrino was appointed in the summer.

Katharina Liebherr, selling 80 per cent of her stake to a Chinese businessman for £210m.

But that new investor, Gao Jisheng, has turned up to one game - against Manchester United - and not spoken once about what exactly his plan is with Saints.

The ambiguous way the investment was made has made the new ownership even more confusing

and uncertain.

That only fuels the mutterings in the stands and really doesn't aid Pellegrino in helping his side progress and move forward in his image, with affairs a little bit unclear.

A whole new era for the club is upon us, but nobody really knows what it holds in store and the only statement we've had so far is that

the club will remain stable under its new owners.

That's not exactly what any fan, who turns up on their days off to be entertained and enjoy watching their team, wants to hear - that their favourite team will now bumble along neither progressing nor regressing under fresh ownership.

Not the bright new direction

many would have wanted to hear about.

All that uncertainty and lack of direction feeds more in to the club's battle with an identity. With no real long-term target under new owners at the moment, things are confusing.

That has come at the same time that Pellegrino has been tasked to build a style of play more in keeping with the recent traditions of the club - playing expansive and ambitiously.

But with virtually the same playing staff as last season and clear issues in breaking the Puel mould, Pellegrino is struggling to stamp what was promised of this team.

The selling tagline on Pellegrino's arrival made by vice chairman of football Les Reed was that the Argentine was here to bring back "attacking football".

Here are two extracts from the press release Saints published to announce Pellegrino's appointment, which begs several questions.

Reed said "[Pellegrino] has an excellent understanding of the Southampton Way."

And he added: "Mauricio believes with the quality we have we can play exciting, attacking football, taking the game to our opponents by playing a high-intensity game. He will continue to develop and introduce young players whilst building on the core of experience that we have in the squad."

First off, the 'Southampton Way'.

From my view, that relates to the ethos of the club bringing through young players from the academy and, if they're good enough, giving them a chance in the first team.

The very opposite of that has happened so far, with Jack Stephens, having proved he's good enough last season and at the beginning of this, being dumped out the team to bring back Virgil van Dijk, who spent the summer trying his level best to get out of St Mary's, and make room for Wesley Hoedt, a £15m signing from Serie A side Lazio.

That, in my view, is the anti-Southampton Way, if there were such a thing.

That isn't Pellegrino's fault, with the club not exactly prepared to allow a new £15m signing to sit in the stands and after refusing to sell Van Dijk, not starting a player potentially worth up to £70m.

Unfortunately, Stephens has been the victim of the change of stance away from what was, originally, the Southampton Way.

The Southampton Way morphed over the club's time in the Premier League in to the method in which Saints were able to continually recruit and bring through players, despite many of them leaving.

Continued on page 22

Top flight's record goalscorers

From facing page

Everton

Dixie Dean - 383 goals in 433 appearances, 1924-38. They say records are there to be broken, but this one will surely last for ever. Holds the record for most Football League goals in a season - 60 in only 39 appearances in 1927/28. Also struck 34 league goals in 38 top flight appearances in 1931/32.

Huddersfield

George Brown - 159 goals in 229 appearances, 1921-29. The Terriers are enjoying some great days at the moment, but nothing compared to the mid 1920s when they were crowned champions of England three years running. In the last of those title wins, 1925/26, Brown struck 35 league goals.

Leicester

Arthur Chandler - 273 goals in 419 appearances, 1923-35. Chandler twice scored 34 goals in a season for the Foxes, and in October 1928 struck a double hat-trick against Pompey. Not one of his goals came from the penalty spot - he only ever took two spot-kicks in his Foxes career and missed them both.

Liverpool

Ian Rush - 346 goals in 660



Ian Rush

appearances, 1980-86 and 1988-96. Was one of Europe's top strikers in his first spell at Anfield - 32 league goals in 1983/84, 30 in 1986/87, 24 in 1982/83 and 22 in 1985/86. After an unhappy season with Juventus, returned to Liverpool where his best league season was 18 goals in 1989/90. That was, remarkably, the last season the Reds were crowned champions of England.

Manchester City

Sergio Aguero - 178 goals in 264 appearances, 2011-present. The Argentine scored 23 goals in his first season at The Etihad in 2011/12, including the injury time winner against QPR that clinched the Premier League title amid remarkable scenes. Won the PL Golden Boot in 2014/15 with 26 goals.

Manchester United

Wayne Rooney - 253 goals in 559 appearances, 2004-2017. Signed from Everton in 2004, he broke Sir Bobby Charlton's long-standing record last season. Best PL campaign for United was his 27-goal haul in 2011/12. Also netted 26 times in 2009/10.

Continued on page 34

Top flight's top scorers

From page 21

Newcastle

Alan Shearer - 206 goals in 404 appearances, 1996-2006. Won his third successive PL Golden Boot in his first season at Newcastle in 1996/97 - 25 goals in 31 appearances. The ex-Saint also managed 23-goal hauls in 1999/2000 and 2001/02 and 22 goals in 2003/04.

SAINTS

Mick Channon - 228 goals in 607 appearances, 1966-77 and 1979-82. Was top league marksman for the club six seasons running - 18 goals (1970/71), 14 (1971/72), 16 (1972/73), 21 (1973-74 - First Division Golden Boot winner), 20 (1974/75) and 20 again (1975/76).

Stoke

John Ritchie - 176 goals in 351 appearances, 1963-66 and 1969-74. His best league season for the Potters was a 25-goal haul in 1964/65. Had three years at Sheffield Wednesday in between his two spells at Stoke.

Swansea

Ivor Allchurch - 164 goals in 445 appearances, 1947-58 and 1965-68. His best Division 2 season for the Swans in front of goal was a 20-goal league haul in 1954/55. By the time he retired - after 17 goals in 1967/68 - the Welsh club were in the old Division 4.



Mick Channon

Tottenham

Jimmy Greaves - 266 goals in 379 appearances, 1961-70. Scored at least 20 top flight goals in seven of his first eight seasons at White Hart Lane - topped by a 37-goal haul in 1962/63 and 35 goals the season after. Also struck 27 league goals in 1968/69.

Watford

Luther Blissett - 186 goals in 503 appearances, 1976-83, 1984-1988, and 1991/92. A talisman for the Hornets as they rose from the old Division 4 to Division 1 runners-up between 1978 and 1983. His 27 league goals in his first ever top flight season won him a £1m move to AC Milan, but after one unhappy year at The San Siro he was back at Vicarage Road. Played for Cherries for three years before a third stint at Watford in the early 1990s.

West Brom

Tony Brown - 279 goals in 720 appearances, 1963-81. Won the Division 1 Golden Boot in 1970/71 with 28 strikes. Had ended his first full season in the first team, in 1965/66, with 27 goals in all competitions and a League Cup winners medal.

SAINTS

Not delivering

From page 21

By refusing to sell Van Dijk it has slightly altered the club's way, suggesting that now Saints don't have to sell and allow one of their players to move off to the bright lights of the Champions League.

That's a bold new stance and fair play to that approach, but it does now mean that Saints have effectively blocked the pathway they were so proud of from the academy.

That doesn't send the best message through the bowels of Staplewood to those young players looking to find their way in an impossibly competitive environment.

Now, when you look at the first-team on a regular basis, there are no academy players getting their chance.

James Ward-Prowse continues to get games here and there, but apart from that there is little coming through at this point.

That again does not help the



club's identity, when quite a few players don't have particular affinity and long history with the club, and may often be there in the first place with a move away in mind.

It was when Saints were fairly fresh to the Premier League that you had the likes of Adam Lallana, Jose Fonte, Rickie Lambert, Morgan Schneiderlin, Kelvin Davis, Steven Davis, Ward-Prowse and Luke Shaw all fully aware of the club's roots and direction.

That was when Saints were at their most purposeful and the continuation of that under Koe-man, despite many of those leaving, was helped by a few figure-heads, like Fonte, keeping that spirit alive and kicking.

But years of selling and change has led to a climate where there are no longer many players from that time and in which the manager is toiling with what exactly Saints stand for.

Something like that takes time



James Ward-Prowse is the only Saints academy graduate regularly appearing in the Premier League this season. Above - Nathan Redmond with Mauricio Pochettino during Saints' draw at Brighton last weekend.

to rebuild and grow, but it doesn't seem the 46-year-old boss has much of that for the previously mentioned reasons.

Going back to what Reed said on Pellegrino's arrival: "we can play exciting, attacking football, taking the game to our opponents by playing a high-intensity game".

Those words have made a bit of a rod for Pellegrino's back,

because so far there is very little evidence of Saints playing like this at all, and it could be a while before they show this.

In fact, while the players were initially talking about Saints playing attacking football, the narrative has since changed.

Dusan Tadic recently said Pellegrino "wants us to be well organised and disciplined".

And that is exactly how Saints play now. They are well drilled and organised, but creatively they are struggling.

That change in narrative and the way they are playing it seems that Pellegrino has now accepted that perhaps the "exciting, attacking football" may be a pipe dream for now and is something that needs patience.

SAINTS



on the promise



Rickie Lambert, Adam Lallana and Jose Fonte, above, rose through the leagues with Saints.



Saints' refusal to sell Virgil van Dijk, above, in the summer represented a sea change in recent club policy.



Dusan Tadic, right, said recently that Mauricio Pellegrino wants his team to be 'well organised'.

They are undoubtedly very well coached by Pellegrino, but he is not delivering what was promised.

That makes his position a bit uncomfortable.

It is so rare that supporters boo so soon in to a manager's time at a club, but after ten games there have been numerous occasions when the St Mary's faithful have

aired their discontent.

There's a lack of clarity all round at the moment. We don't know what the new owners have planned and on the pitch there isn't a clear direction or style which the team play yet.

Phil Neville, on Match of the Day, said after last Sunday's 1-1 draw at Brighton that Saints "are a nice team that are coached re-

ally well".

He added: "They lack ruthlessness, they don't gamble enough. They need to get players in areas where they can hurt.

"At times in the second half they were boring to watch and that's why they're struggling to beat the promoted teams.

"They don't take enough risks, they're not ruthless enough and

they don't gamble enough at times to win games."

Jermaine Jenas chipped in too, saying: "I'm disappointed when I watch Southampton.

"The players they have at their disposal are far better than what we get to see on a weekly basis.

"There are not enough risks being taken. They need to be let off the leash a little bit. It's a bit too structured and there's not enough creativity.

"Individually a lot of those players could play in top teams."

Usually Jenas and Neville aren't overly interesting but these are fascinating comments, and perhaps accurate of what is happening at Saints at present.

Pellegrino is clearly grappling with how this team should play and is continually experimenting with different ways of setting them up.

But in this era of impatience, there is little time for a transitional season - although that is increasingly how this campaign is going.

Aguero's City goal numbers

Sergio Aguero has become Manchester City's all-time record scorer.

The Argentina striker netted against Napoli in the Champions League to move past Eric Brook's mark of 177.

Here, the Sports Pink looks at Aguero's City career in numbers.

178

goals scored by Aguero for City.

264

appearances for Aguero in all competitions to reach the record mark, compared to Eric Brook's 493.

129

Premier League goals. That places Aguero 12th in the all-time list and third among active players, behind Wayne Rooney (202) and Jermain Defoe (159).

26

goals in his most prolific Premier League season, 2014-15.



Sergio Aguero

10

his hat-trick against Watford in September was his 10th treble for City in all competitions.

6

Premier League hat-tricks, a mark bettered only by Alan Shearer (11), Robbie Fowler (nine), Michael Owen and Thierry Henry (both eight).

29

Aguero has scored against 29 different opponents in the Premier League.

11

Newcastle are his favourite Premier League opponent, with Aguero scoring 11 goals against them including five in one match.

4

Major trophies with City - two Premier League titles and two League Cups - to add to his 2010 Europa League triumph with Atletico Madrid and 2008 Olympic gold with Argentina.

So, who was City ace Eric Brooks?

Sergio Aguero this week beat Manchester City's goalscoring record, netting his 178th goal for the club in the Champions League against Napoli.

Here, we profile Eric Brook, the man whose mark he has moved past.

To find out about the man Aguero has now overtaken as City's record goalscorer, one has to look deep into history.

England international Eric Brook was a firm fans' favourite in the 1930s. The Yorkshireman was a strong forward, primarily an outside left but not one who restricted himself to the wing duties normally associated with that position.

As well as playing wide he would also move across the attacking line, appearing in the box like a centre forward to score many of his 177 City goals.

And, unlike other forwards of the day, he would challenge to win back possession. Such was Brook's versatility and exuberance, he even played as an emergency goalkeeper on more than one occasion.

His efforts helped City win the FA Cup in 1934, after being beaten semi-finalists and runners-up in the previous two years, and the league title for the first time in their history in 1937.

Brook was born in Mexborough,



Sergio Aguero

South Yorkshire, in 1907. He worked as a miner but was signed by Barnsley at the age of 18. He moved to City, then in the Second Division, in 1928 as part of a joint deal which also took Fred Tilson to Maine Road.

Tilson, with whom Brook formed a formidable left-wing partnership, went on to score 132 goals for City himself.

Promotion came swiftly and City became one of the dominant forces of the 1930s. Brook was an ever-present and scored 20 League goals in the 1936-37 title-winning campaign.

Brook, who also won 18 England caps, stayed with the club after their shock relegation in 1938 but his league career was ended by the outbreak of the Second World War.

He did score what would have been a 178th City goal in the opening game of 1939-40 but that was expunged from records after the fixtures were cancelled.

There were wartime fixtures but he fractured his skull in a car crash while travelling to an England game against Scotland at Newcastle in December 1939 and never played competitively again.

He died at the age of 57 in 1965 after working in later life as a pub landlord, a coach driver and a crane operator.

PREMIER LEAGUE



Davis set to join

Peter Howard



STEVEN Davis is about to join a prestigious club of international centuries.

The Northern Ireland captain currently has 99 caps and in next Thursday's World Cup play-offs, the Saints man is set to reach his century.

The 32-year-old was earlier this week made an MBE for his services to football by Prince William, the Duke of Cambridge, and is about to top off a remarkable period with his 100th appearance for Northern Ireland.

To top that off, the two-legged qualifier against Switzerland will determine whether or not Davis will play his first World Cup.

He said: "It's going to be a difficult game but there's a lot of belief within the squad, and it's two games for us to get to the World Cup so we will be giving it our all."

Here, the Sports Pink, has charted all the home nations centuries that Davis is about to join.

ENGLAND

Peter Shilton - 125

The ex-Saint, one of the game's greatest and long-serving goalkeepers, played 1,390 times for eleven clubs during his career. He didn't retire until well into his 40s.

He is still England's most capped player, making his 125 appearances in a 20-year career.

Shilton would have had more caps if wasn't for the presence of Ray Clemence, who he shared the position with during the late 1970s.

Wayne Rooney - 119

The Everton striker retired from international football in August, finishing his Three Lions days as England's all-time leading scorer with 53 strikes.

His scoring record is excellent, but his seven goals in 21 appearances in the World Cup and European Championship finals is seen as a blot on his copybook.

David Beckham - 115

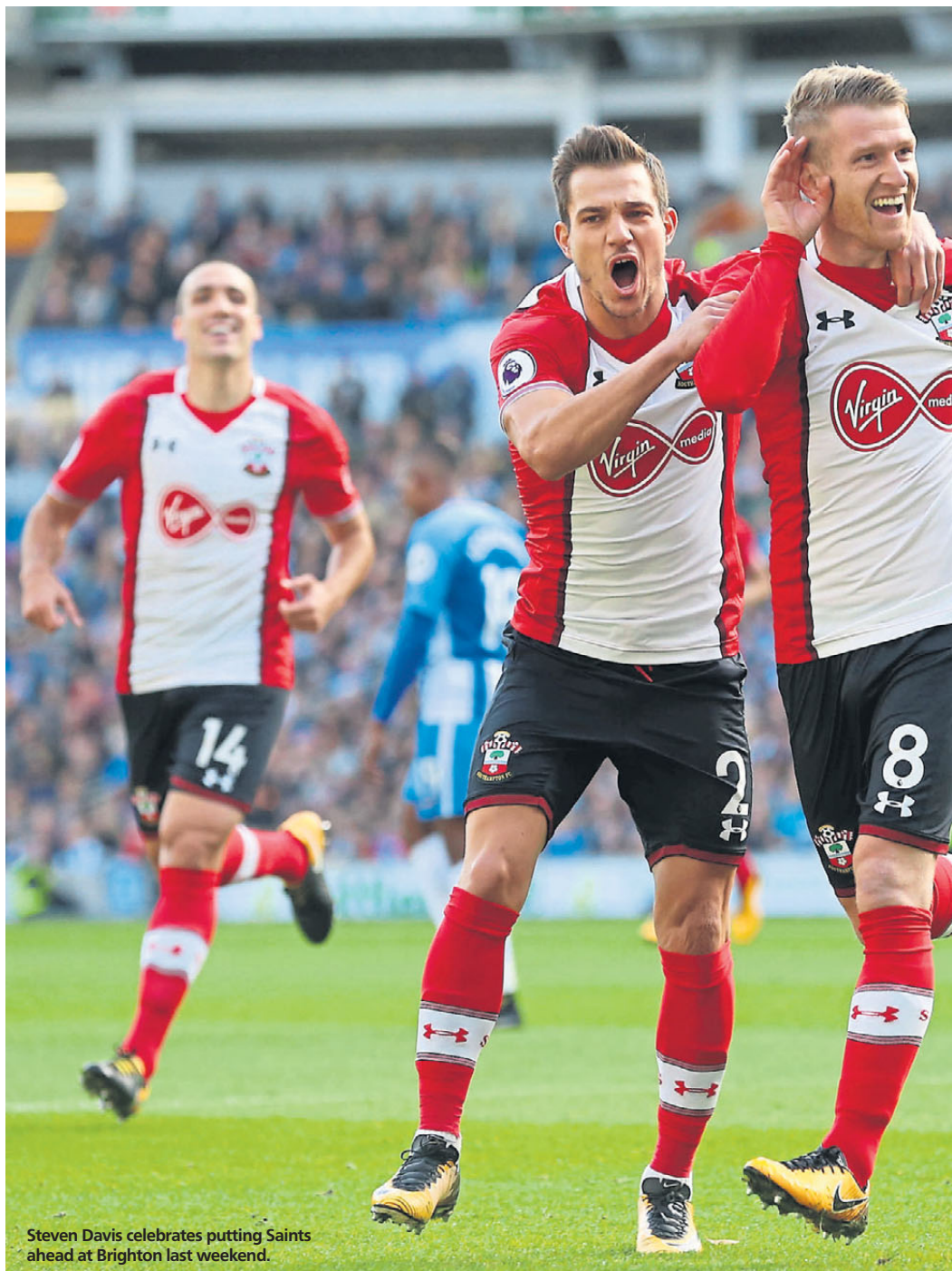
Set piece icon Beckham made his debut in 1996 and played in three World Cups.

He was made England captain in 2000 and led by example against Greece in 2001 when his last-gasp curling free-kick at Old Trafford sent the Three Lions to the 2002 World Cup finals. Made his last appearance in October 2009.

Steven Gerrard - 114

The Liverpool stalwart retired from international football in July 2014 after England's 'Golden Generation' failed to capitalise on their undoubted talents to win something.

Gerrard played at six major tournaments, skipping England in the 2010 and 2014 World Cups.



Steven Davis celebrates putting Saints ahead at Brighton last weekend.

Bobby Moore - 108

Moore will forever be remembered as the man who led England to their greatest ever achievement, winning the 1966 World Cup.

The West Ham legend captained the Three Lions to victory over West Germany in the World Cup final.

Pele described him as 'the most accomplished defender [he has] ever played against'.

Ashley Cole - 107

Left-back Cole made his England debut against Albania in 2001 and went on to play for the Three Lions at the 2002, 2006 and 2010 World Cups as well as Euro 2004.

He was named in the all-star squad at the Greece tournament.

Having been omitted from the squad for the 2014 World Cup, Cole

retired from international duty.

Bobby Charlton - 106

Another 1966 hero, few English players can match the achievements of Sir Bobby, who won three top-flight league titles, a European Cup and, most famously, the World Cup.

He is a Manchester United legend, having spent 17 years at Old Traf-

PREMIER LEAGUE

centurions club



International centurions
Top right - England's most capped player, ex-Saint Peter Shilton.
Middle - Robbie Keane is the most capped Irishman ever.
Right - Billy Wright (white shirt, front) was the first British player to win a century of caps.

ford, finishing his career there as the record appearance maker and goalscorer.

Frank Lampard - 106

The Chelsea legend made his first England appearance in October 1999 in a friendly win over Belgium.

The goalscoring midfielder went on to net 29 goals for the Three Lions and

played at three World Cups in 2006, 2010 and 2014.

He retired after the World Cup in Brazil in 2014.

Billy Wright - 105

The centre-back made his England debut in January 1946 in a 2-0 win over Belgium and was made captain in 1948.

He was skipper for 90 games un-

til his retirement and was the first football player in the world to reach 100 caps.

He made his century against Scotland at Wembley stadium in April 1959.

He was never cautioned or sent off.

SCOTLAND

Kenny Dalglish - 102

The only Scotland player ever to reach 100 caps.

It could have easily been more too, but the Liverpool frontman missed the 1986 World Cup finals in Mexico through injury.

Dalglish broke through the ranks at Celtic - arch rivals of Rangers, the club he supported as a boy - before being sold to Liverpool in 1977 for a British record of £440,000.

REPUBLIC OF IRELAND

Robbie Keane - 146

The former Tottenham man made his final Ireland appearance against Oman in a friendly in August 2016, scoring his side's second goal. The most capped Irishman ever, he also scored a Republic record 68 goals.

Shay Given - 134

Having made his international debut in 1996, he made his last appearance 20 years later. Kept 52 clean sheets for his country.

John O'Shea - 117

Made his international debut as a late sub against Croatia in 2001, where there was still time for him to give away a last minute penalty for handball. Still playing for Sunderland this season.

Kevin Kilbane 110

Made 66 successive appearances for the Irish and was only four away from equalling Billy Wright's record of 70 when he was left out of a Euro 2012 qualifier.

Steve Staunton - 102

Made his international debut in 1998, and was the first Republic player ever to reach a century of caps. Was appointed player-manager of his country in early 2006, but lasted just 21 months in charge. Made his last appearance in 2010.

Damien Duff - 100

Scored eight goals for his country in a 14-year career that began in 1998.

NORTHERN IRELAND

Pat Jennings - 119

The iconic goalkeeper made his international debut at an 18-year-old alongside George Best.

Played his last international game against Brazil at the 1986 World Cup on his 41st birthday. Retired from all football the same year.

In all, he took part qualifying stages of six World Cups between 1966 and 1986.

Aaron Hughes - 107

The Hearts defender made his debut in 1998 and captained the Irish for the first time in 2002 in a match against Spain in Belfast.

Before Davis took over as skipper, Hughes regularly wore the armband between 2003 and 2011.

He led the team to notable wins over England, Spain and Sweden and played at Euro 2016 at the age of 36.

● Tammy Abraham, Ruben Loftus-Cheek and Joe Gomez have all received a maiden England call-up for the friendlies against Germany and Brazil.

The young trio have represented the country at under-21 level and various other age groups, and could now push their claims for World Cup selection at Wembley later this month.

Here, the Sports Pink looks at five things you may not know about the players.

1. Light on top-flight experience

Loftus-Cheek has featured the most in the Premier League although 17 of his 28 appearances have been from the bench, with Abraham and Gomez playing in 12 and 13 fixtures respectively in England's top division. Striker Abraham and midfielder Loftus-Cheek share the same parent club but are on loan from Chelsea at Swansea and Crystal Palace this season due to limited first-team opportunities at the Blues. Gomez is firmly a first-team regular at Liverpool but often finds himself playing at full-back instead of his preferred centre-back position.

2. Social media

Inexperienced at top level they may be, but all three have an enviable presence on social media. Gomez, perhaps surprisingly, leads the way on Twitter with more than 234,000 followers, with Loftus-Cheek close to 160,000 and Abraham just over 65,000. But Loftus-Cheek has a significant advantage on Instagram, boasting 711,000 followers, in comparison to Gomez (453,000) and Abraham (264,000). Expect those numbers on both social profiles to increase over the next few weeks.

3. Tammy's kitchen nightmares

Abraham, or to give him his full name: Kevin Oghenetega Tamaraebi Bakumo-Abraham, will not be swapping a football pitch for a kitchen anytime soon. His loan spell



Joe Gomez

last season at Bristol City, in which he scored 23 league goals, forced him to move away from his home comforts. As he said while representing England Under-21s over the summer: "I've enjoyed living by myself in the past nine months. I was used to my mum's cooking before - although my cooking is still rubbish."

4. Lofty standards for Ruben

Loftus-Cheek, whose half-brothers on his father's side are former footballers Carl and Leon Cort, may have struggled to keep his place at the heart of Chelsea's midfield but he has often been touted as one to watch, captaining the club to the FA Youth Cup three years ago while he was the first homegrown player to feature prominently in the Blues first XI in 2015 since John Terry's emergence almost 17 years earlier.

5. Beach boy Gomez

Gomez is settling into a first-team role at Liverpool in this campaign, having seen his progress stall in the previous two seasons because of injury, but only after Reds boss Jurgen Klopp warned him to ditch the muscle. Klopp told the Liverpool Echo in pre-season: "When he came back he got injured and then when he came back again he was heavy. He had a lot of muscle and you only need muscles like that if you're only going to the beach or whatever. We had to work on this and now he's back."

The incidents that shocked football

Marseille defender Patrice Evra stunned the football world on Thursday when he was sent off for aiming a kick at the head of one of his club's own supporters before the Europa League game at Vitoria de Guimaraes.

Here, the Sports Pink looks back on the incident and other such ignominies.

EVRA LASHES OUT

Evra, named as a substitute for Marseille's fixture in Portugal, kicked out at the fan in a heated confrontation before kick-off. The 36-year-old now faces almost certain sanction by UEFA following scenes reminiscent of Eric Cantona's kung-fu kick at Selhurst Park in 1995. Video footage showed Evra aiming the kick at the Marseille fan as visiting players and supporters, who had seemingly scaled barriers to reach the advertising hoardings, confronted each other at the side of the pitch.

CANTONA KICK

Cantona may have been known as a volatile, as well as brilliant player, but what occurred at Selhurst Park 22 years ago was extraordinary. As he walked off after being red carded, Cantona launched himself into the crowd to kick Palace fan Matthew Simmons, who was shouting abuse at him. He was found guilty of assault and initially sentenced to two weeks in prison, a punishment later changed to community service.



Patrice Evra

on appeal. The FA banned him for eight months.

SUAREZ BITE

Luis Suarez sent shock waves through football when he bit an opponent for the third time in his career during the 2014 World Cup. The Uruguay striker had already been banned for sinking his teeth into rivals during while representing Ajax and Liverpool when he remarkably did it again on the game's biggest stage. Italy defender Giorgio Chiellini was the victim. FIFA banned him for four months.

SCHUMACHER FOUL

Few fouls have earned the notoriety of that committed by West Germany goalkeeper Harald Schumacher against France's Patrice Battison in the World Cup semi-final in 1982. Battison was clean through as he raced on to a fine ball from Michel Platini but Schumacher charged out of his area and flattened the Frenchman. He suffered cracked ribs, lost two teeth and required oxygen on the pitch. Remarkably, he did not even get a free-kick.

ZIDANE HEADBUTT

Another unsavoury World Cup incident occurred in 2006 when the great Zinedine Zidane lost the plot in spectacular fashion as France were ground down by Italy in the final in Berlin.

Continued on facing page

SAINTS

Benali: This is my

Peter Howard



SAINTS have been asking supporters through a survey who would make the grade in an Ultimate Saints XI.

The results of the survey will be revealed when the SeaCity Museum in Southampton opens a major exhibition about the club next March.

Here, the Sports Pink asks Saints legend Francis Benali to pick his Ultimate Saints XI ahead of the survey's deadline at 8pm this Sunday.

"The whole selection process was a tough one," said Benali. "The names in it and the players who weren't in the selection list, you could have almost picked three full teams and still had headaches, so picking 11 players was tough."

With the help of historians, Saints have selected a shortlist of players to pick from to make up each team.

The club state: "To qualify, players need to have represented the club after 1945 and have made 150 or more appearances, unless they are deemed to have made a particularly special contribution or significant impact during their time with Saints. Current players are not included in the vote."

Here is Benali's team and his explanation to why he's made his selection decisions.

MANAGER

LAWRIE MCMENEMY - I learned something from all the managers I played for and I tried to take something from them. There were a number of managers I could have picked but Lawrie, for me, was the right pick. The fact that he signed me as a schoolboy at 14 when he was manager of the first team and the fact he's the only manager who has brought a major piece of silverware to the club in all these years, means I've got to choose him.

GOALKEEPER

TIM FLOWERS - Tim gets the nod because I played with him and I know what it was like to play in front of him, how good his communication skills were and what a good goalkeeper he was technically. He was a great all-round goalkeeper that you'd be willing and happy to have in any team. He was a great character in the dressing room as well. On and off the pitch, he was a great personality.

RIGHT-BACK

JASON DODD - He was just so



Jason Dodd and Matt Le Tissier celebrate a Saints goal in 1995.

Franny Benali has picked Wayne Bridge to play in his left back position.

reliable and steady. By his own admission he wasn't the quickest of players, but he could read the game so well. He had that passion and commitment again and he was a character on and off the pitch. He was someone who was so reliable and never let you down. He was captain for many years, so in a way he was an obvious choice.

CENTRE-BACK

MARK WRIGHT - I played against Mark Wright when I was a youngster as an apprentice at the club. He was in the first team at the time and I just remember playing as a striker, as I was back then, in training games and practice matches and finding it so hard to get past him and beat him in the air. He had an incredible career; he was a wonderful player and he was an England international as well. He was just one of those players who looked com-

fortable in possession. He wasn't just a big battering ram.

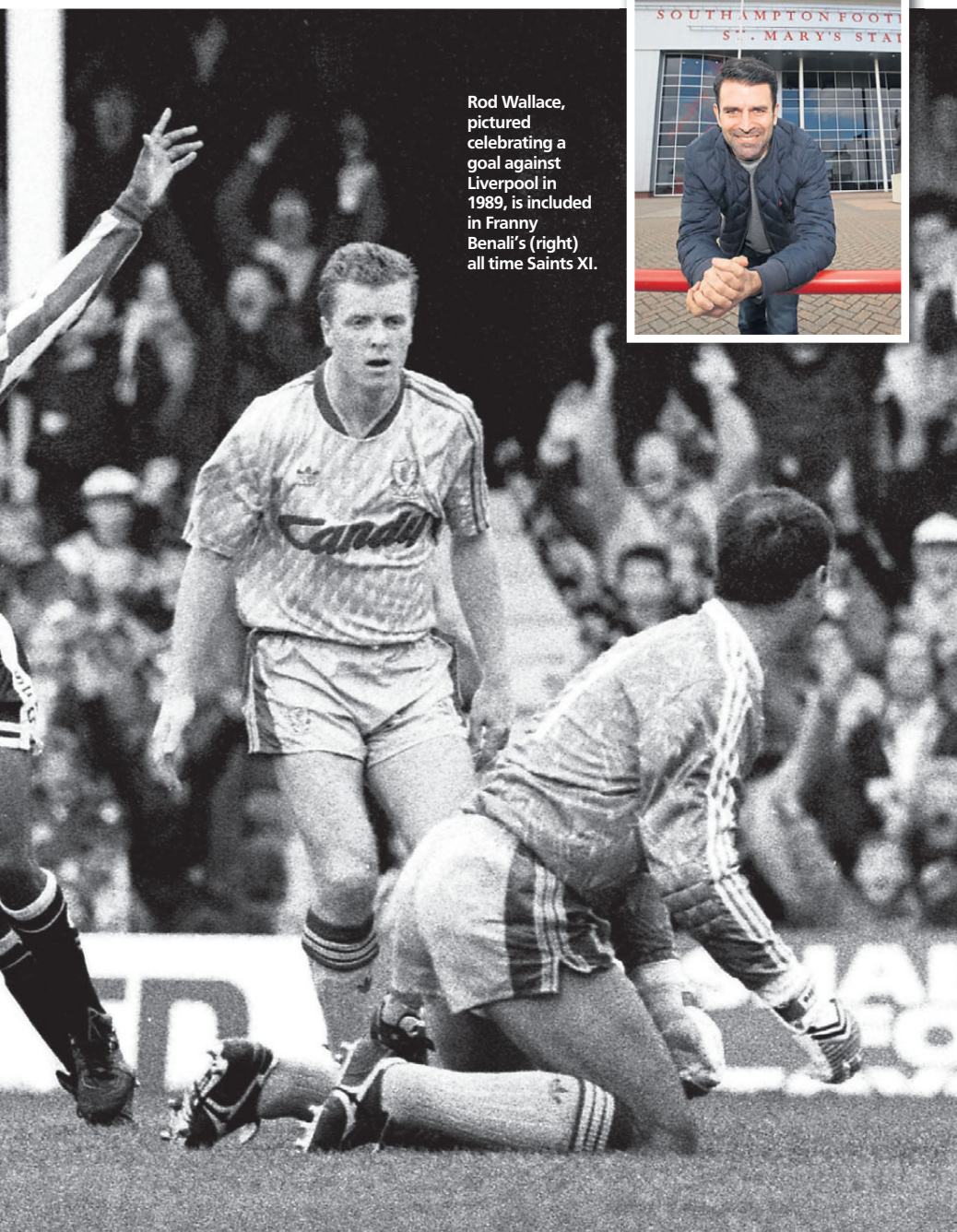
CENTRE-BACK

CLAUS LUNDEKVAM - Nicknamed 'Silky', which said it all really. He was so composed and comfortable on the ball. He carried the ball out of defence and created an attack with ease. Considering he was from Scandinavia, he fitted in and was just one of the guys. He fitted in with the

SAINTS



all-time Saints XI



Rod Wallace, pictured celebrating a goal against Liverpool in 1989, is included in Franny Benali's (right) all time Saints XI.



dressing room culture, the humour, and he was a brave defender as well.

LEFT BACK

WAYNE BRIDGE - I'd like nothing more to play in this team but I don't think it's for me to choose myself in this line up. Bridgey was someone who came through when I was at the club. I played on the same side as him on the left with him ahead of me, and it

was nice to hand the reigns of my place in the team over to another local boy and someone who had come through the club. I managed to fight off a few over the years who I was competing with but to eventually hand that over to Bridgey was good for me - I knew he was such a great player, and someone who would be a world class international player. He was the first breed of the modern full back. He could attack and defend.

CENTRE-MIDFIELD

ALAN BALL - I remember watching Alan from the terraces as a young boy when I used to watch Saints at The Dell. I just remember how simple he kept the game as a player - it was one or two touch football. He had that passion and desire and love for the game that I saw close up when he joined the club as a manager and I played under him in the side. That enthusiasm just

rubbed off on everybody and, ultimately, when you've got a World Cup winner walking through the door he commands that instant respect. He was an obvious choice for the line up.

CENTRE-MIDFIELD

JIMMY CASE - A senior figure in my time when I was coming through as a youngster, he was the senior pro in the team, the enforcer of the team. Nobody took liberties with Jimmy. He wasn't just a fierce competitor, he was also a wonderful footballer and could pass the ball around from anywhere. He was that good old head in the team that we needed as youngsters coming in, as well as being a bit of a minder for us as well.

RIGHT ATTACKING MIDFIELD

MICK CHANNON - Again, someone I watched as a youngster from the stands. The goal celebration was always memorable and someone who plays that amount of games for the club, and the amount of goals he scored, he just couldn't be left out the side.

CENTRE ATTACKING MIDFIELD

MATT LE TISSIER - He'd always make my team. He'd be in any greatest team. Anything, five-a-side or 11-a-side. He was an absolute genius and the goals he scored, set pieces he could score from, and just the ability to create something out of nothing was amazing. You've got to have him in the team.

LEFT ATTACKING MIDFIELD

ROD WALLACE - Rod came through the youth system with me. Blistering pace, lightening fast, but would also do his bit defensively as well. I played behind Rod during the time he had at the club, so I saw first-hand what a benefit he could be going forward and defensively. He could score goals as well so he is the man for the left side of the three.

STRIKER

RICKIE LAMBERT - It was another tough choice on who to pick, but look at what Rickie did for the club. His goals were so valuable and off the pitch he was a wonderful person. His journey through football was incredible and then to play in the Premier League in his 30s and become a full international and score on your debut ... it's almost like Roy of the Rovers stuff. He's a lovely guy and a fantastic footballer. Again, set pieces, free kicks and penalties he's pretty lethal from, so it would have been an interesting conversation for Matt and Rickie to decide who were on penalties.

Shockers

From facing page

The score was locked at 1-1 with 10 minutes of extra-time remaining when Zidane reacted to the verbal provocation of Marco Materazzi by headbutting the Italy defender in the chest. The incident was unseen at the time by the referee but he was informed of it by the fourth official via headset, and Zidane was dismissed.

RIJKAARD SPITS

In a bad-tempered World Cup 1990 clash with West Germany, Holland defender Frank Rijkaard was booked for scything down Rudi Voller. Voller complained he was spat at in the aftermath and was booked for his protestations. The battle between the pair continued and less than a minute later both were sent off. Then, in full view of the cameras, Rijkaard clearly did spit at Voller.

DYER AND BOWYER COME TO BLOWS

Fights occasionally break out on the field but what was remarkable about that involving Kieron Dyer and Lee Bowyer in 2005 was that both were playing for the same team, Newcastle. On what was a dismal day for the Magpies as they were beaten 3-0 by Aston Villa at St James' Park, Dyer and Bowyer came to blows as a row over who was passing to who spectacularly exploded. Both were sent off.



Alan Pardew

DI CANIO FELLS REF

Sheffield Wednesday's temperamental Italian Paolo Di Canio lost his cool in dramatic fashion in a game against Arsenal in 1998 when he reacted to being sent off by pushing over referee Paul Alcock. Di Canio was not initially involved as tempers flared following a clash in midfield but he got caught up in trouble as a brawl developed. He did not take kindly to the red card that followed after the situation was calmed and he shoved Alcock in the chest, comically sending him backpedalling and eventually to the ground. Di Canio was banned for 11 matches and fined £10,000.

PARDEW HEADBUTT

Alan Pardew has been involved in a few unsavoury moments during his managerial career but the worst, a headbutt on a Hull player, was the most bizarre. Pardew's Newcastle were winning 3-1 at the KC Stadium in 2014 when he inexplicably got involved in a touchline altercation with Hull's David Meyler. Meyler pushed Pardew as he attempted to retrieve the ball to take a throw-in and was headbutted in response. The former Saints boss was handed a three-game stadium ban and banned from the touchline for a further four games.

Lewis among favourites for SPOTY

Lewis Hamilton has secured his fourth Formula One world title and must now be a strong contender for the 2017 BBC Sports Personality of the Year award.

The shortlist is set to be announced towards the end of this month, and here are the names likely to be on it, with odds supplied by Ladbrokes.

Anthony Joshua (1/3)

If this was a prize for the best single performance by a British star in the last 12 months, it is no contest - the 27-year-old heavyweight's victory over Wladimir Klitschko in April was an absolute belter. He looks in great shape to add a SPOTY honour to his collection.

Lewis Hamilton (9/1)

Formula One world champion for a fourth time, Hamilton is just 32 and could have many more titles left in him. An outstanding candidate for the Sports Personality award that he won in 2014.

Chris Froome (10/1)

The first man to follow up a win at the Tour de France with a victory in the Spanish equivalent in the same season, the 32-year-old is now, by any fair measure, one of cycling's greats. A previous SPOTY best of sixth suggests Froome has not yet conquered the heights of popular acclaim here. Could this be his breakthrough year?



Jermain Defoe with Bradley Lowery

Jermain Defoe (16/1)

Now 35 and playing for Bournemouth, the Londoner was the best player in a bad Sunderland side last season, scoring 15 league goals. That effort earned him a recall to the England squad for the first time in three years and he scored on his return.

But that is not why Defoe is an outside contender for this award. At Sunderland, he met Bradley Lowery, a young boy with cancer. Bradley died aged six in July, but not before striking up a heart-warming friendship with Defoe that saw the pair lead England out at Wembley in March.

Sir Mo Farah (16/1)

Farah had won nine straight global track finals since 2011, so arguably his return of a gold and a silver at the World Championships in London in the summer was a disappointment. But that would be very unfair.

Britain's only individual medallist, Farah won one thriller and narrowly lost another.

Like Froome, the Somalia-born star probably has not had the credit he deserves in the BBC poll. A best of third, in 2011, does not really reflect his domination in one of sport's most accessible disciplines.

PREMIER LEAGUE

What became of

Simon Carter



ENGLAND'S Under-17 World Cup winners are currently the talk of the nation.

They have been heralded as a golden generation, after winning the trophy with a stunning 5-2 success against Spain in India.

But if the squad want to keep their feet on the ground, they will do well to look at what has become of the England squad that competed at the same tournament 10 years ago.

Of the 21-man squad, only two - Danny Welbeck and Danny Rose - have gone onto win full England caps.

And only four are currently at with Premier League clubs - Welbeck, Rose, Dan Gosling and Victor Moses.

A handful of them are playing in non league football, such as Eastleigh full back Gavin Hoye.

Here, the Sports Pink looks at how the class of 2007 and where they are now ...

Jason Steele

The goalkeeper made over 100 appearances for Middlesbrough prior to signing for Blackburn in 2015. Returned to the north east earlier this year to sign for Sunderland. Played for Great Britain in the 2012 London Olympics alongside the likes of Ryan Bertrand and Jack Cork.

Alex Smithies

After eight years with Huddersfield, the goalkeeper moved onto Queens Park Rangers in 2015. Remains the club's first choice No 1.

Wes Foderingham

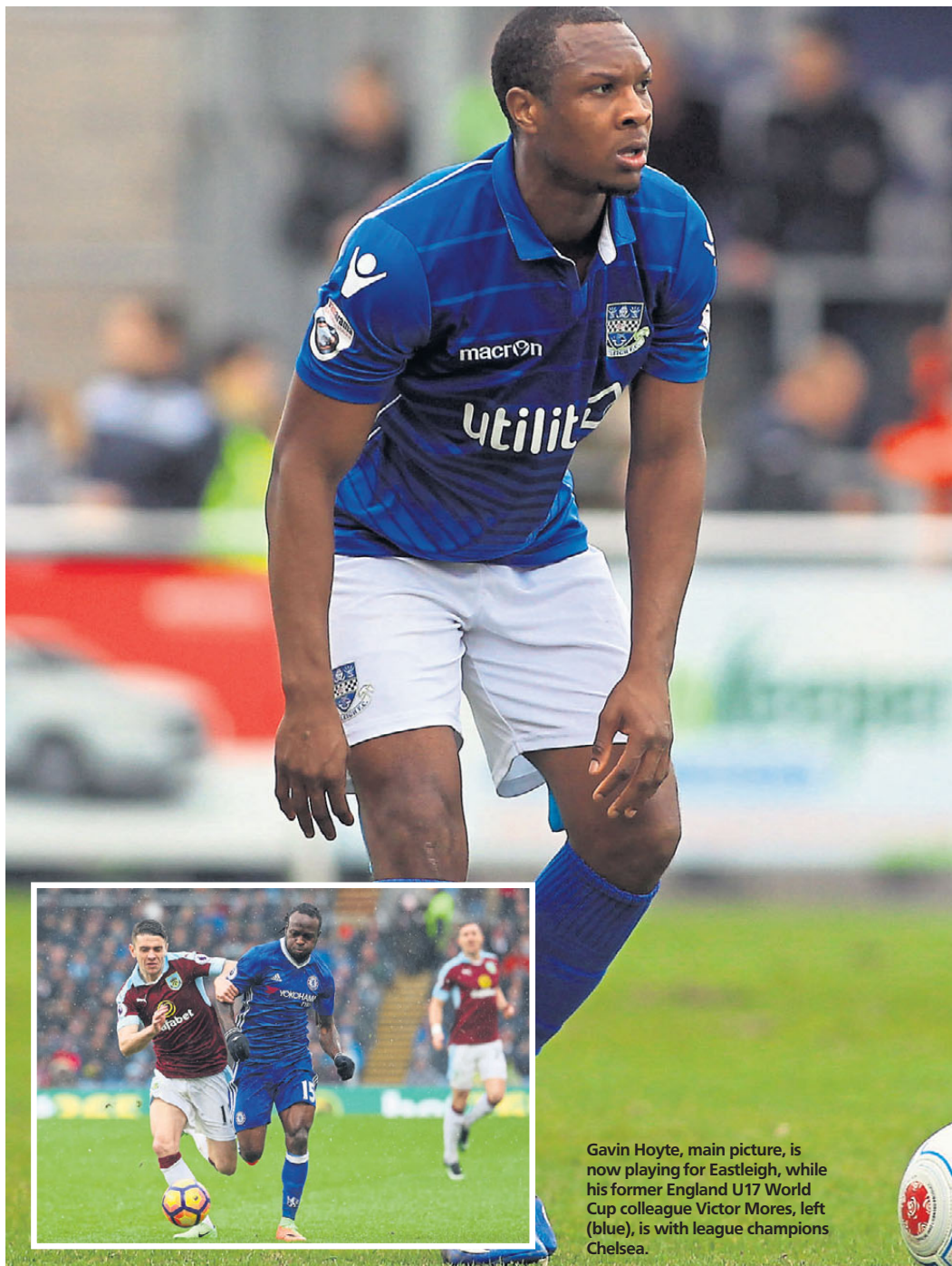
Released by Fulham without playing a first team game, Foderingham went on to spend three years as Swindon's first choice before joining Glasgow Rangers in 2015.

Seth Ofori-Twumasi

The one-time Chelsea academy defender never made a single first team appearance for the Blues and since the start of last season has been playing for Maidstone. Appeared at the Silverlake Stadium earlier this season when the Kent club beat Eastleigh 1-0.

Danny Rose

A product of the Leeds youth system, Rose never made a first team appearance for the Yorkshire club prior to joining Tottenham in 2007. Made his full international debut in 2016 and was England's first choice left



Gavin Hoyte, main picture, is now playing for Eastleigh, while his former England U17 World Cup colleague Victor Moses, left (blue), is with league champions Chelsea.

back prior to picking up an injury which has since let in Saints' Ryan Bertrand.

Krystian Pearce

The centre half never made a first team appearance for Birmingham, but went onto establish himself as Notts County before and two years with Torquay United.

Was voted Mansfield Town's Player of the Season in 2016/17.

Tommy Smith

The defender is still at Ipswich Town, where he has made over 200 appearances. Has also won over 30 full international caps and played in a World Cup finals.

Not for England, though - but

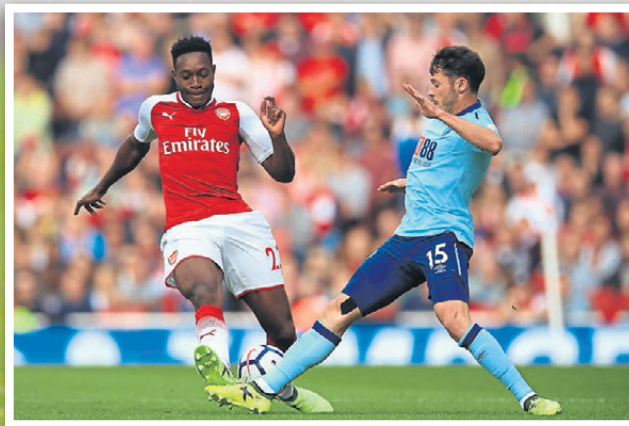
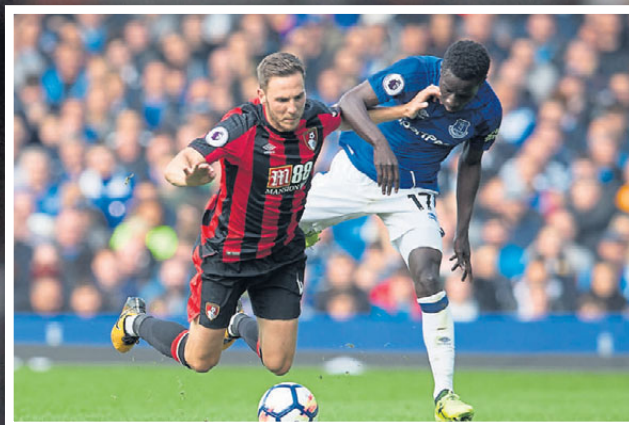
for New Zealand. Despite being born in Macclesfield, Smith lived in New Zealand during part of his childhood and, as a result, qualified to play for the Kiwis. Made his international debut in 2010.

Jordan Spence

Skipper of the 2007 England U17 team, he started his career at

PREMIER LEAGUE

the likely lads?



The class of 2007 - three players still in the Premier League. Dan Gosling (top right, left), Danny Rose (middle right, right) and Danny Welbeck (below right, left).

West Ham but made just seven appearances. The right back joined Ipswich Town this summer after two years with MK Dons.

Gavin Hoyte

The former Arsenal trainee is currently at Eastleigh, whom he joined midway through last season during Martin Allen's turbu-

lent spell in charge. Hoyte had previously played under Allen at Barnet. After leaving the Gunners, the right back played for Dagenham (2012-14) and Gillingham (2014-15). Has just completed a three match ban after being sent off in Eastleigh's surprise home FA Cup loss to lower division Hereford.

Tristan Plummer

The midfielder was released by Bristol City in 2010 without ever playing a single game. Has spent most of his career in non league football, including two spells with Aldershot. Last heard of at Hereford FC last season.

Victor Moses

The former Crystal Palace trainee was a regular member of Chelsea's title winning side last season as a wing back. Signed by the Blues in 2012, he spent the club's 2014/15 title winning campaign on loan at Stoke. Like Smith, has since won full international honours for a different country - in his case Nigeria.

James Reid

The midfielder only ever made one Football League appearance for Nottingham Forest - and that was as a 90th minute substitute - before drifting into non league football. Played for Hinckley and Nuneaton before signing for Gainsborough Trinity.

Nathan Porritt

Never made a professional appearance after being released by Middlesbrough. Had brief stints at Portuguese clubs Belenenses and Olhanense and a six-month spell at Belgian Third Division club Olympic Charleroi. Ended up playing non league football in the north east for Stokesley and Billingham Synthonia.

Henri Lansbury

Only ever made three appearances for Arsenal but enjoyed impressive loan spells at Watford, Norwich and West Ham prior to a £1m move to Nottingham Forest in 2012. The midfielder joined Aston Villa for £3m in this year's January transfer window.

Dan Gosling

The midfielder left Everton in 2010 to sign for Newcastle, and then moved onto Bournemouth three years ago. Has never become a regular under Eddie Howe.

Michael Woods

Another one-time Chelsea trainee who never made a professional appearance at Stamford Bridge. Currently playing for National League club Hartlepool United, whom he joined from Harrogate Town in 2014.

Danny Welbeck

The most well known member of England's 2007 U17 World Cup squad, and one of only two members of it to have since won full international honours for the country.

Made his name at Old Trafford before signing for Arsenal in 2014, since when his career has been disrupted by injuries.

Possesses an impressive international scoring record - 15 goals in 36 appearances since his debut in 2011.

Rhys Evans

The former Arsenal trainee never made a first team appearance at The Emirates. He is now playing for National League side Torquay on loan from Forest Green Rovers. Switched his international allegiances to the Republic of Ireland in 2011 and played for the under-21 team.

Continued on page 32

Magnificent year for Aidan

Winter, Churchill and Capri have led another magnificent season for Aidan O'Brien, one which has seen him break Bobby Frankel's world record of 25 Group/Grade One successes on the Flat in a calendar year.

Here are 10 other great names to have emerged from Ballydoyle over the years under his guidance:

CAMELOT: No horse is likely to go closer to capturing the Triple Crown than Camelot. A testament to O'Brien's training skills, Camelot won the 2000 Guineas and Derby in smooth fashion, but was denied immortality when second in the St Leger in 2012.

DYLAN THOMAS: This outstanding colt won a total of six Group One races, with the last of four in 2007 coming in the Prix de l'Arc de Triomphe which gave his trainer his first success in Europe's premier middle-distance contest.

GEORGE WASHINGTON: O'Brien's ability to handle difficult horses is best illustrated by how he got the best out of the Danehill colt who was top two-year-old in 2005 and won the 2000 Guineas and St James's Palace Stakes in 2006.

GALILEO: Brilliant winner of the English and Irish Derbys and King George VI And Queen Elizabeth Stakes in 2001, Galileo has gone on to scale greater heights as a stallion and his offspring have been the key to the success of the O'Brien stable in recent years.

GIANT'S CAUSEWAY: The Iron Horse had an outstanding record, winning nine of his 13 starts and finishing second in the other four. His two narrow hard-fought victories over Kalanisi in the Coral Eclipse and Juddmonte International in 2000 will forever live in the memory.



Trainer Aidan O'Brien

HIGH CHAPARRAL: A colossus on the track, High Chaparral completed the English and Irish Derby double in 2002 and won the Breeders' Cup Turf that year and dead-heat for it 12 months later. He is probably best remembered for edging out Falbrav in the Irish Champion Stakes in 2003.

MINDING: The daughter of Galileo struck at Group One level on seven occasions, including Classic wins in the 1000 Guineas at Newmarket and the Investec Oaks at Epsom.

ROCK OF GIBRALTAR: When Rock of Gibraltar defeated his better-fancied stable companion Hawk Wing in the 2000 Guineas in 2002, there was a feeling that it was a fluke. However, he blew that theory out of the water with wins in the Irish 2000, St James's Palace, Sussex and Prix du Moulin to be the mile king.

SO YOU THINK: This horse had been a champion in Australia before being sent to Ballydoyle and what he did in the Northern Hemisphere clearly matched his exploits down under as he amassed more than £5million in career earnings. His wins in Europe included two Tattersalls Gold Cups, an Irish Champion Stakes and the Eclipse in 2011.

YEATS: While nearly all of O'Brien's champions have been retired after their three-year-old campaign, Yeats galloped on until he was eight and into the racing history books by winning the Gold Cup at Royal Ascot four years in a row - from 2006 to 2009.

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U17s in 2007

from page 29

Jonathan Franks

Played 28 times for Middlesbrough before signing for Hartlepool in 2012. After moving onto Ross County three years later, he returned to Pools this summer.

Ashley Chambers

Made just six first team appearances as a winger for Leicester City. Played over 100 times for York City and over 60 times for Dagenham, and is now at Nuneaton Town.

Medy Elito

Winger who was included in England's 2007 U17 World Cup squad despite playing for Colchester's academy. Currently with League 2 club Cambridge United.

● Prior to 1991, the tournament was held for under-16 teams. Scotland hosted the 2009 U16 World Cup finals and, as host nation, got a free pass into it. The Scots should have won the trophy, as they reached the final and led Saudi Arabia 2-0 at half-time. The Saudis hit back to draw 2-2 and then won 6-4 in a penalty shoot-out.

Hardly any of the Scottish squad went on to carve out a high profile career.

The best known of the team was striker Paul Dickov, who went on to score over 100 league goals - mainly for Manchester City, Leicester City and Blackburn Rovers.

Dickov's main claim to fame was scoring Manchester City's injury time equaliser in the 1998/99 third division play off final against Gillingham at Wembley.

Yes, younger readers, City were in what is now League 1 less than 20 years ago.

Dickov's goal - scored past ex-Cherries keeper Vince Bartram, the best man at Dickov's wedding - was voted City's Greatest Ever Goal in a 2005 poll conducted by the club.

City went on to win on penalties.

Dickov's U16 colleagues included ex-Celtic and Preston midfielder Brian O'Neill, who won seven full international caps - three fewer than Dickov managed.

Also in the squad was defender Scott Marshall, who Dave Jones signed on a free for Saints from Arsenal in the summer of 1998.

It is fair to say the move never worked out.

Marshall only played two games. On his debut, a 3-0 loss to Leeds, he scored an own goal and in his second appearance he scored another own goal in a 4-0 defeat at Newcastle.

Marshall never played for Saints again.

He was quickly sent on loan to Celtic, but only managed one Scottish League appearance in 1998/99 - a 3-0 loss to Glasgow Rangers.

A season to forget, to say the least.

Marshall was sold to Brentford in the summer of 1999.



Scott Marshall

SAINTS

Which boss made

Simon Carter



MAURICIO Pellegrino's 10th league game in charge of Saints - at Brighton last weekend - brought him his 13th point.

That was exactly the same amount of points as his predecessor Claude Puel managed at the start of last season, though with a far tougher fixture list.

It was also fewer points than both Ronald Koeman and Mauricio Pochettino had collected in their first 10 Premier League games as St Mary's boss.

Pellegrino, though, has at least managed a double figure points haul.

That is something nine Saints bosses never achieved in modern times.

Here, the Sports Pink looks at the figures of those who have taken charge of the club since the start of the Premier League era.

Ronald Koeman - 22pts

What Everton fans would have given for Koeman to have repeated his first taste of Premier League football?

Back in 2014/15, with a hastily-rebuilt squad, the Dutchman picked up just one point from his first two league games.

From nowhere, though, Saints won seven of their next eight - highlights including an 8-0 humiliation of Sunderland and a 4-0 tanking of Newcastle.

The only defeat in that extraordinary run was a 1-0 setback at Tottenham, managed of course by Koeman's St Mary's predecessor.

Nevertheless, it was only a slight dent in what remains the best first 10 games of any Premier League era Saints boss.

Nigel Adkins - 20pts

Took just one point from his first two games after replacing Alan Pardew in September 2010.

Saints were in the League 1 drop zone when he arrived, and a 2-0 loss at MK Dons and a 0-0 home draw with Colchester kept them there.

After that, though, the wins kept on coming - right through to the end of the following campaign.

Adkins won six of his next eight league games, the only loss a 2-0 defeat at Huddersfield.

Paul Sturrock - 16pts

Sturrock's entire Saints career comprised just 13 games - the last 11 of 2003/04 and the first two of 2004/05.

He won four of his first 10, in-



Nigel Adkins picked up 20 points from his first 10 games as Saints boss.



Claude Puel, left, and Mauricio Pochettino.



Paul Sturrock walks out at St Mary's for the first time as Saints boss in 2004.

cluding a 2-0 St Mary's success against Liverpool (who finished fourth) on his debut.

Tottenham were also beaten 1-0, while Wolves (4-1) and Manchester City (3-1) were defeated away.

The top flight was a lot different to today - Tottenham finished 14th and City 16th. Seventh and fifth bottom respectively, to put it another way. And that was only 13

years ago!

Sturrock's first 10 games were consistently inconsistent. Apart from the wins, Saints lost dismally at Fratton Park and 4-0 at runners-up Chelsea, while also crashing 2-1 at St Mary's to a Bolton side who finished eighth.

Mauricio Pochettino - 15pts

Ronald Koeman has picked up more points in his first 10 games than any other Saints boss since the start of the 1990s.



Parachuted into St Mary's as as virtual unknown in the eyes of many Saints fans after the sacking of Nigel Adkins in January 2013.

Picked up only six points from his first seven games - the only win a stunning 3-1 success against reigning champions Manchester City. There were signs of what was to come, however, with an im-

SAINTS



best Saints start?



Gordon Strachan is welcomed to St Mary's by chairman Rupert Lowe.

Mark Wotte with Paul Wotton.

Alan Ball returns to The Dell as manager in 1994

pressive performance at Old Trafford which brought an unlucky 2-1 loss.

Poch won games eight, nine and ten, though - the first two against current European kings Chelsea and Liverpool - before beating Adkins' Reading.

Glenn Hoddle - 14pts

Following his hugely controversial appointment after Dave Jones was placed on gardening leave, Hoddle needed a good start. He got one, winning his first two games - the first a 2-1 success against West Ham thanks to a late Gary Charles own goal.

Just one point followed from his next four matches, which included a 7-2 thrashing on his return to

White Hart Lane.

Gordon Strachan - 14pts

Hardly a hugely popular choice as Stuart Gray's replacement in October 2001, Strachan only banked one point from his first four games. But as he started to improve the team's discipline and fitness, results improved. After

just five points from his opening seven games, he then won three of his next four - including a 4-0 romp at fellow strugglers Leicester and a 1-0 win over Glenn Hoddle's Tottenham. The one game he didn't win in that spell was a 6-1 destruction at one of his former clubs, Manchester United.

Claude Puel - 13pts

Puel took as many points from his opening 10 league games as his successor Mauricio Pellegrino has.

Puel had a far tougher fixture list to contend with, though.

His first two away games were at Old Trafford and The Emirates, with trips to West Ham, defending champions Leicester City and Manchester City after that.

Puel also had a home game against Chelsea to contend with.

In other words, he faced four of last season's eventual top five in his first 10 games.

During the same timeframe, he also guided Saints through two rounds of the League Cup and had three Europa League games to contend with.

Mark Wotte - 13pts

Handed the job of trying to keep Saints in the Championship after Jan Poortvliet's dismissal, Wotte made a reasonable start.

He claimed three wins and four draws from his first 10 games.

Those three successes were all in a row - a Marek Saganowski double helping Saints beat Preston 3-1, a David McGoldrick penalty accounting for Cardiff, and Jason Euell's brace aiding a 3-0 romp at Ipswich.

Ultimately, though, Wotte couldn't succeed in his aim and was then replaced by Alan Pardew following Markus Liebherr's takeover.

Alan Ball - 12pts

Began his third spell at The Dell - and his first as manager - with three wins in four games. Matt Le Tissier struck a free kick winner at Newcastle, hit a hat-trick against Liverpool and then provided the only goal against Wimbledon. Ball then failed to win his next six - three draws and three defeats - but went on to keep Saints up.

Jan Poortvliet - 11pts

The Dutchman's time at St Mary's is not fondly recalled, to say the least.

Handed a painfully inexperienced squad ahead of the 2008/09 Championship season, Saints unsurprisingly struggled.

Poortvliet still managed three wins from his opening 10 games - a 1-0 win at Derby, a 2-0 success at Doncaster and a 2-0 home win over a Norwich side eventually relegated alongside Saints. There were also five losses, though, including 4-1 canings at QPR and Coventry.

Continued on page 34

World Cup winner - but no Wikipedia page yet!

England Under-17s Phil Foden was named player of the tournament after their World Cup triumph in Kolkata.

Here, we take a closer look at the Manchester City midfielder.

Background

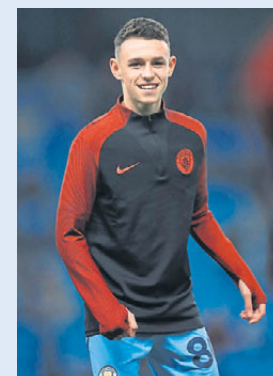
Born in Stockport, just eight miles from the Etihad Stadium, Foden joined City at under-nine level. He turned 17 in May. Such is his rapid rise to stardom with England's Under-17s he does not even have his own Wikipedia page yet.

Genuine talent

Foden, aged just 16, was named on the bench for City's Champions League tie with Celtic in December 2016. Only Glyn Pardoe and Paul Simpson were younger when they were called into the squad.

Taste of the future

While Foden has yet to play a competitive match for City, he has already played with the first team. He was given his first opportunity against Manchester United on the summer tour to the United States in



Phil Foden

a game City lost 2-0. The teenager's inclusion on the flight to America was such a surprise his mother had to rush to Manchester Airport with his passport before the City squad flew out.

Near miss

Foden was the stand-out player at the Under-17 World Cup, but he almost did not make it. City boss Pep Guardiola admitted he was tempted to recall him to play in the Carabao Cup clash against Wolves. "There was an opportunity for Phil to stay here with us and play in the game against Wolves," he said. "But we believe that when this guy has a chance to play in a World Cup against Brazil, against Germany, Spain, Italy and whoever else, in India, it's an amazing opportunity."

Inspiration

The prodigious midfielder is in the right place to learn from the best such is the depth of the talent pool at City. But there is one player he hopes to emulate and that is David Silva. "He's my idol really. I try and watch what he does and learn from him and try and do the same things," Foden, who was just 10 when the Spaniard arrived in Manchester, told City's website.

The rise of Dele Alli ...

England midfielder Dele Alli made his debut for MK Dons against Cambridge on November 2, 2012.

On the eve of the five-year anniversary of his League One bow, he scored twice as Tottenham defeated European champions Real Madrid 3-1 at Wembley.

Here, we outline the 21-year-old's progress.

November 2, 2012: A trainee at MK Dons, Alli appears as second-half substitute in FA Cup first-round tie at Cambridge.

September 28, 2013: Notches first professional goal, in 4-1 League 1 thrashing of Stevenage.

March 11, 2014: Still just 17 years (and 11 months) old, Alli bags hat-trick in 3-1 win at Notts County.

August 26, 2014: Reportedly watched by numerous scouts, having by now become a regular stand-out performer, Alli plays 90 minutes in MK Dons' 4-0 League Cup success against Manchester United.

February 2, 2015: Signs for Tottenham in final hours of winter transfer window, for an initial fee of £5m, on a five-and-a-half-year deal. Immediately loaned back to MK Dons for rest of season.

April 26, 2015: Named in PFA's League 1 team of season, and voted English Football League's young player of the year.

May 3, 2015: Plays last match for MK Dons, the campaign ending with



club clinching automatic promotion to Championship.

August 8, 2015: Makes Spurs debut off bench in 1-0 defeat at Manchester United in first game of 2015/16 Premier League term.

August 22, 2015: Heads home his first Tottenham goal in 1-1 draw at Leicester.

October 9, 2015: Makes senior England debut as substitute in 2-0 Euro 2016 qualifying win over Estonia at Wembley.

November 17, 2015: Starts for England for first time and scores opener - past Spurs team-mate Hugo Lloris - in 2-0 home friendly triumph over France.

January 12, 2016: Signs new contract at Tottenham, committing himself to club until 2021.

April 24, 2016: Caps brilliant breakthrough season by winning the PFA's young player of the year award.

September 19, 2016: Pens another fresh deal at Spurs, which runs until 2022.

April 23, 2017: Again voted PFA young player of the year.

May 2017: Finishes season with 22 club goals, in all competitions, and helps Spurs secure second place in table - their highest finish in 54 years.

November 1, 2017: Nets brace as Tottenham beat Real Madrid 3-1 to qualify for knockout phase of Champions League with two games to spare.

SAINTS

Not the start they

from page 33

Nigel Pearson - 11 pts

Brought in to steady a slowly sinking Saints ship in the aftermath of a shock FA Cup fifth round loss at lower division Bristol Rovers, Pearson drew four of his first five league games. His first win came courtesy of a Stern John strike against Leicester. That would prove to be a critical success, as Saints stayed up at the Foxes' expense. It wasn't the start of a revival, though, as Saints then crashed 5-0 at a Hull side who were eventually promoted. Pearson's only other win in his first 10 games was a 2-0 St Mary's success against a Bristol City side who finished fourth.

Alan Pardew - 9 pts

Saints ended their first season in League 1 in 2009/10 in seventh place - a fine effort considering they had started the campaign on minus 10 points.

They also endured a poor start, with Pardew only winning one of his first 10 league games.

That was a 2-0 home win over Yeovil thanks to a brace of penalties from Rickie Lambert.

There were also six draws in addition to losses at Swindon and Huddersfield and a 3-2 home defeat to Lambert's former club, Bristol Rovers.

Graeme Souness 9 pts

A dismal start at the beginning of 1996/97, with just two draws in his first seven games - and one of those was thanks to an 89th minute Matt Le Tissier leveller against Nottingham Forest. His first win came in a 4-0 caning of Middlesbrough followed soon after by a 3-0 success against Sunderland. It wasn't the hardest of starts either - only Liverpool and Chelsea on his fixture list among the teams who would finish in the top seven.

Ian Branfoot - 8 pts

Was handed games against the eventual top three - losses at Manchester United (second) and Sheffield Wednesday (third) and a 4-0 home caning by Leeds (1st). Yet Branfoot's early season fixture list also contained trips to Notts County (0-1) and West Ham (1-2) - and both those clubs were relegated ahead of the first ever Premier League campaign.

Dave Jones - 7 pts

A baptism of fire for the man brought in from Stockport County in the summer of 1997. Jones lost five of his first six games - the only solace in that time a 1-0 home win over Crystal Palace thanks to a Kevin Davies strike. Some Pre-



Left - Steve Wigley failed to win any of his first 10 league games. Below - Alan Pardew only won one of his first 10.



Harry Redknapp only won one of his first 10 league games in 2004/05.

mier League chairmen these days wouldn't have allowed him to take charge of a seventh match. In all, Jones won two, drew one and lost seven of his first 10 games.

Harry Redknapp - 7 pts

Saints' third manager of 2004/05, Redknapp was handed a fairly reasonable first 10 games.

He was to face just two teams who ended up in the top six - Everton (4th) and Liverpool (5th).

Of those, Liverpool provided Redknapp's solitary win in his

first 10 games - a 2-0 St Mary's success - while Saints were also literally seconds away from beating Everton.

As it was, an injury time leveller from Marcus Bent resulted in two more crucial points dropped in a 2-2 draw.

That was a bit of déjà vu for Redknapp, whose first game in charge had seen Saints toss away a 2-0 lead with three minutes to go to draw 2-2 with Middlesbrough.

Stuart Gray - 6 pts

The only manager in this feature who never completed 10 games. After his caretaker period was turned into a permanent job in the summer of 2001, Gray lost six of his first eight league games and was sacked. His two wins came away from the newly-built St Mary's - at Bolton and Middlesbrough.

Dave Merrington - 6 pts

His only win in his first 10 games at the start of 1995/96 was a 1-0 Dell success against Newcas-

SAINTS

all wanted ...!



George Burley, pictured with Bradley Wright-Phillips, only won one of his first 10 league games as Saints boss.

tle, Jim Magilton on target. Three draws and six losses highlighted it would be a tough campaign - and so it proved. Merrington wasn't dealt the kindest of starts, though - trips to champions Blackburn, Arsenal, Everton and Chelsea proof of that.

George Burley - 5pts

Heralded as a great appointment by Saints fans following his arrival just before Christmas 2005, Burley endured a tough start - his first two games were

against Watford and Sheffield United, two clubs who eventually won promotion. He only won one of his first 10 games and suffered seven defeats. His solitary victory was a 2-1 home win over eventually relegated Brighton courtesy of a late Dexter Blackstock goal.

Steve Wigley - 5 pts

A shock choice to replace Paul Sturrock, youth team coach Wigley failed to win any of his first 10 league games.

The five draws included costly

St Mary's stalemates with fellow strugglers West Brom (2-2) and goalless stalemates with Birmingham and Manchester City. The closest Wigley came to a win in that period was at Arsenal, where Robin van Persie grabbed a 90th minute leveller after Rory Delap's late double had put Saints in sight of a famous - and incredibly rare - league win at the Gunners.

Wigley was to win just one of his 14 league games in charge before Harry Redknapp was appointed.

Chelsea v Manchester United - recalling four classic clashes

Chelsea welcome Manchester United to Stamford Bridge on Sunday, with managers Antonio Conte and Jose Mourinho set to resume hostilities after last season's memorable encounters.

Here, Will Dennis looks back at four classic encounters between the two sides.

Manchester United 4 Chelsea 0 (May 14, 1994)

One of the biggest winning margins in an FA Cup final, United thrashed Chelsea to secure Sir Alex Ferguson his first league and cup double in Manchester. Two identical Eric Cantona penalties and a Mark Hughes goal gave United a 3-0 lead in the space of 10 second half minutes, before Brian McClair got a fourth late on.

Manchester United 3 Chelsea 3 (September 23, 2000)

A game featuring brilliant goals and a stunning second-half Chelsea comeback also saw United's unbeaten home run extend to 32 matches. The game's best goal was its first with Jimmy Floyd Hasselbaink volleying a stunner into the top corner from the edge of the box. Paul Scholes replied and Teddy Sheringham and David Beckham then scored within two minutes of each other but Tore Andre Flo got one back for Chelsea to make it 3-2 at half-time. Flo completed Chelsea's comeback in the second half.

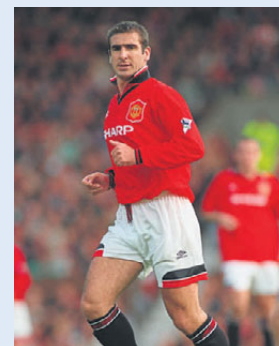
Chelsea 3 Manchester United 0 (April 29, 2006)

The game which secured Chelsea's second PL title under Mourinho.

William Gallas gave Chelsea an early lead against their closest challengers, then Joe Cole produced a mesmerising piece of skill to beat Rio Ferdinand and Mikael Silvestre before firing past Edwin van der Sar. Ricardo Carvalho got the third goal to spark the celebrations.

Chelsea 3 Manchester United 3 (February 5, 2012)

In one of the Premier League's most memorable games, Chelsea rushed into a 3-0 lead early in the second half only to leave the game with just a point, following three Manchester United goals in 25 minutes. An own goal from Jonny Evans gave Chelsea the lead in the first half with Juan Mata and David Luiz adding two more just after half-time. Two Rooney penalties made Chelsea worry, before Javier Hernandez headed in the equaliser six minutes from time.



Eric Cantona

Manchester City v Arsenal - recalling four classic clashes

Manchester City face Arsenal at the Etihad on Sunday with the home side looking to strengthen their position at the top of the Premier League.

Here, Will Dennis looks back at four classic encounters between the sides.

Arsenal 5 Manchester City 4 (January 14, 1961)

A true classic which took place in the old Division One. Danny Clapton, Jackie Henderson and a David Herd hat-trick gave Arsenal the win at Highbury. City did put up resistance with a Joe Hayes brace, while Colin Barlow and Barries Betts also scored in one of this fixture's highest scoring games.

Manchester City 1 Arsenal 2 (August 31, 2003)

With City playing their second match at the newly built City of Manchester Stadium, Arsenal's 'Invincibles' denied the hosts a first win there. Lauren, under some pressure from Trevor Sinclair, ran the ball into his own net to give the home side a bizarre lead - and it took Arsenal until the second half to recover. However, goals from Sylvain Wiltord and Freddie Ljungberg kick-started Arsenal's advance into an unbeaten season.

Manchester City 4 Arsenal 2 (September 12, 2009)

Emmanuel Adebayor's first game against Arsenal following his acrimonious move to Eastlands was eventful. Micah Richards gave City the lead in a quiet first half before the game burst into life in the second. Robin van Persie got Arsenal back on

level terms but City then struck three times in 10 minutes, with City's third scored by Adebayor, who raced the length of the pitch to celebrate in front of the travelling fans. Craig Bellamy and Shaun Wright-Phillips scored either side of Adebayor's goal for City, with Tomas Rosicky notching Arsenal's second late on.

Manchester City 6 Arsenal 3 (December 14, 2013)

City battered Arsenal in a season which would see them crowned champions on the final day. Sergio Aguero and Alvaro Negredo twice gave City a first half lead with Theo Walcott levelling in between. The second half was a totally different game, with City taking over. Fernandinho made it three with his first goal for the club before Walcott got his second. However, David Silva, Yaya Toure and a second goal for Fernandinho took the hosts out of sight, before Per Mertesacker replied.



Emmanuel Adebayor

What next for Joshua?

After defending his WBA and IBF heavyweight titles against mandatory challenger Carlos Takam, Anthony Joshua is again expected to pursue significant fights in 2018.

Here, we examine his options.

LOCATION

Despite only Wladimir Klitschko's retirement ending hopes of a Joshua-Klitschko rematch in Las Vegas next month, the champion's first international fight is far from imminent. His trainer Rob McCracken did not discourage Eddie Hearn's post-fight talk of Joshua fighting overseas, but the fighter spoke of the satisfaction he takes from fighting in the UK, and Hearn insisted the money for a fight in the US would only be sufficient under specific circumstances.

Though Matchroom's recent venture into the US boxing market makes a fight there increasingly likely, Hearn also spoke of returning to Cardiff. As the estimated 76,000 there to see Joshua fight a little-known opponent showed, he has significant and widespread appeal.

FREQUENCY

Hearn also said they plan for Joshua to fight three times in 2018, starting with March or April. Given his nose was not broken, and instead only swollen, during last Saturday's fight, and the fact he has fought only twice in 2017, there is little to stop him doing so.



Anthony Joshua

OPPONENTS

The specific circumstances Hearn was referring to for a US fight would have been in place for an opponent like Klitschko, and America's WBC champion Deontay Wilder, but few others. Given Hearn wants Wilder to next fight Dillian Whyte, that makes Joshua-Wilder far from imminent. Should he not succeed in securing that fight, while a match-up with Wilder would be difficult to make, one with Whyte - Joshua's long-term rival - would be significantly more straightforward because he promotes both. David Haye, in the event of victory in his December 17 rematch with Tony Bellew, would become another suitable opponent, and represents a match-up that would again attract a significant audience.

Joshua and Hearn having the freedom to select his next opponent will depend on whether the WBA demand he faces another mandatory challenger - Takam was enforced by the IBF - and the promoter said that whether they will remains unclear. The logical next opponent regardless is WBO champion Joseph Parker, who is beatable, known in the UK for his defeat of Hughie Fury, and as a fellow champion would allow Joshua to unify a third of the four world heavyweight titles.

LOCAL CRICKET

Southern Premier



Happy Days ! Calmore Sports parade the Southern Premier Division 1 championship trophy and show off their inscribed glass tankards. All photos by Dave Vokes.



Basingstoke II's Chris Oliver complimented his 379 runs with 23 dismissals behind the stumps, which helped earn the Division 3 runners-up spot for the Bountyemen.



Ben Johns has been Calmore Sports' leading run scorer for the past two seasons, his 539 run tally playing a big part in the club's second consecutive title triumph. Two-thirds of his runs, including an opening day hundred at Basingstoke, came on Calmore's 'away-days' and took him to the Division 1 batting award.



Ben Walker once again led from the front, scoring 602 runs as Havant toasted as second consecutive Southern Premier League title. Captaining the side, he hit one century (112 v Hampshire Academy) and made five scores of fifty or more, winning the batting award for the second year running.



Old Tauntonians & Romsey pair Nick DeStefano (left) and Harry Tulk (right) pictured with Angus Fraser and the Premier Division 2 championship trophy which the club won in such dramatic fashion on the final day of the season at Hartley Wintney.



Former Hampshire and Kent pace bowler David Griffiths receives the Division 1 bowling award from Angus Fraser (Middlesex & England), the guest speaker at the Premier League awards dinner. Griffiths, right, took 39 wickets including four separate five-wicket hauls to secure a promotion clinching runners-up spot.

British Gas Southern League Roll of Honour 2017

ECB Premier Division

Champions: Havant
Runners-up: Bashley (Rydal)
50-over pennant: Bashley (Rydal)
Time pennant: Lymington
Relegated: Andover

Division 1

Champions: Calmore Sports
Runners-up: Basingstoke & North Hants
Relegated: Rowledge and Tichborne Park

Division 2

Champions: Old Tauntonians & Romsey
Runners-up: Hartley Wintney
Relegated: Hambledon and South Wilts II

Division 3

Champions: Waterlooville and Basingstoke & North Hants II
Relegated: Alton II and Hursley Park
Hampshire League
Champions: Portsmouth & Southsea
Runners-up: Lymington II



Lymington all-rounder Matt Metcalfe maintained his vice-like grip on the Barry Boorah Memorial Bowl - awarded to the Premier Division's leading wicket taker - with a fifth 'win' in eight seasons (since 2010). He will be looking to reach a 500-wicket milestone in 2018, having now chalked up 474 dismissals since his SPL debut as a Hampshire Academy player.

HANTS CRICKET



League winners



Bashley (Rydal) skipper Michael Porter receives the Premier Division 50-over pennant from Angus Fraser.



Gosport Borough opener and skipper Tom Larner hit seven scores of fifty or more in his Division 3 winning aggregate of 651 runs, the highest in all four divisions.



Lymington captain Simon Beetham receives the Premier Division Time pennant from Angus Fraser.



The ECB British Gas Southern Cricket League has formally crowned its four title winning clubs at the presentation awards dinner in Southampton. From left Nick DeStefano (OTs & Romsey), Calmore Sports skipper Mark Lavelle, Havant double winning captain Ben Walker, and Waterlooville all-rounder Archie Reynolds (far right) show off their respective trophies.



Promotion winning Basingstoke II skipper Chris Chandler (left) and Fawley left-armers Adam Freeman shared the Division 3 bowling award, with 27 wickets each. Chandler, whose side finished runners-up to Waterlooville, enjoyed a 6-15 return against Gosport Borough, while Freeman's haul included 6-24 versus relegated Hursley Park and a five-wicket spell, also against Gosport.



South Wills II's gloveman Sam Pittman bagged his second Premier League wicket-keeping award in three seasons, having snapped up 27 victims in Division 3 in 2015. He topped the SPL2 charts with 22 dismissals this summer.

Paul Hawkins, right, the innovator of Hawk-Eye's cricket technology, won a Southern Premier League divisional batting award for the second consecutive season. Last year he led St Cross Symondians' seconds promotion charge by topping the Division 3 charts with 757 runs at an average of 58.23. This summer Hawkins hit six half-centuries in his 556-run aggregate, the highest in SPL2.



Calmore Sports skipper Mark Lavelle receives the Southern Premier Division 1 championship trophy from former Middlesex & England pace bowler Angus Fraser.

Celebrity culture is to blame - Virgo

John Virgo believes social media and celebrity culture's intrusion into sport have turned snooker's charismatic characters into privacy-guarding potters.

During the mid-1980s snooker boom years, the likes of Alex Higgins, Jimmy White, Kirk Stevens and Tony Knowles were household names as much for their vibrant personalities as their snooker skills.

But Virgo says modern stars, in snooker and across the sporting spectrum, are denied the freedom to cut loose and enjoy themselves because the slightest hint of a misstep could count against them.

He predicted 'Hurricane' Higgins, who died in 2010, would have smashed the camera phone of any modern-day interloper.

Crucible stars used to populate Sheffield's nightclubs between matches at the World Championship, but the new generation are more likely to enjoy a quiet meal and turn in early.

Virgo won the UK Championship in 1979 and swiftly saw the one-time minority interest sport become a mainstream fascination.

"It is a different world now and I think the world started getting different round about then," Virgo said.

"I remember that if you went down to the Crucible or other snooker tournaments it was all the snooker writers, and then all of a sudden when the game became popular on



John Virgo

television it wasn't only snooker writers: it was what we called special correspondents.

"All of a sudden you couldn't go out to nightclubs, you didn't know who you were talking to, and it just changed completely. As soon as it became popular then not only the sports pages wanted to know about it, everybody else wanted to know.

"Particularly now with social media, you only need to turn round and someone will have a camera in your face and occasionally someone will be talking to you at the bar, asking you to pose for a picture, and someone will say, 'They're videoing this'.

"They're videoing you at the bar! "In the old days of (Alex) Higgins and people like that, that would have been some video. The phone would have got smashed. The Hurricane would have smashed it against the wall."

A criticism often thrown snooker's way is that colourful characters no longer exist, but Virgo sympathises with the current cue stars.

He said: "It's a different world now and as we see with footballers and everybody else, and the fall from grace of any sportsman, it's a difficult balancing act now of going out and being nice to the general public and being very wary."

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Joshua pure box office

Anthony Joshua made a successful fourth defence of his world heavyweight titles with a 10th round stoppage victory over Carlos Takam at Cardiff's Principality Stadium.

Here, Phil Blanche looks at four things we learned from their fight.

JOSHUA IS PURE BOX OFFICE

Joshua's popular appeal appears to know no bounds. Thousands of fans - including hundreds of women and children - turned out to see him at his public work-out and weigh-in in Cardiff. Joshua's engaging personality and smile makes him a hit with all generations and he took time after his media commitments to sign autographs and have photos taken with fans. There is no doubt the 28-year-old is well on the way to becoming Britain's biggest sporting star - if he is not so already.

FAR FROM THE FINISHED ARTICLE

This was Joshua's 20th professional fight and he came into it with 19 wins inside the distance. Joshua climbed off the canvas to knock out Wladimir Klitschko in the 11th round in April but flaws in that barnstormer were again underlined here. Takam had only taken the fight at short notice after Kubrat Pulev withdrew but Joshua found the short and squat Frenchman a stubborn customer.



Anthony Joshua

WEIGHTY ISSUE

Joshua had tipped the scales at 18st 2lbs - 4lbs more than any of his previous 19 fights and two stone heavier than when he made his pro debut in October 2013. Questions whether the extra weight would affect Joshua's endurance surfaced in the second half of the fight as he appeared to take a breather.

But Joshua got the job done, even if the stoppage seemed premature.

CARDIFF THE PERFECT HOST

It was almost 10 years to the day that Cardiff's Principality Stadium had staged its last night of big time boxing when 50,000 saw Welsh hero Joe Calzaghe beat Mikkel Kessler in a super-middleweight unification showdown.

But, as promoter Eddie Hearn said before the fight, the 70,000-plus capacity arena is a perfect fit for Joshua fights - particularly in the autumn and winter months when the stadium roof ensures that adverse weather is not a factor.

The stadium's city centre location also ensures that it is a hit for fans keen to sample Cardiff's bars and restaurants.

PINK

Four Hassan's a jolly good fellow!

Hassan Ahmady struck four goals as Unity 101 won a 10-goal Hampshire Press Sponsors of Charlie Godden Trophy second round tie at Burridge.

Riyadh Miah and Ikram Ali also scored as Unity - level at 4-4 after an entertaining first half - emerged 6-4 winners. Dave Middleton (3) and Ryan Woodford replied.

AFC Forestside thumped visiting Sporting Compass 6-0 with goals from Sam Vidler (3), Matt Lay (2) and Mark Lavelle.

Nick England (2) and James Brewer were on target as AFC

Itchen, who trailed at half-time, defeated Riverside Rangers 3-1. Dave Piley had put Rangers ahead.

Lee Wilkinson (2), Nathan Ward and Dillian Hopkins netted as AFC Stoneham defeated AFC Itchen Reserves 4-1. Ash Strong replied.

Chamberlayne Athletic 'A' were another side to come from behind to win. They trailed Park Gate Rangers 1-0 at the break but ended up winning 3-2 thanks to goals from Josh Hill, George Lucas and Sam Conway. Aiden Martin and Alex Hudson replied.

Southern Sports Reserves also came from behind to progress.

They trailed Romsey Comrades 1-0 at half-time, but it was 2-2 after 90 minutes and 3-3 after extra time.

Southern triumphed 4-2 on penalties with Robbie Jack, Paul Burrows, Daryl Hinder and Darren Chip converting their spot-kicks.

Ben Driscoll, Rhys Kerry and Sam Driscoll had earlier struck for them, with Ben Jacobs, Gavin Norris and Matt Wheeler on target for Comrades.

Jordan Amos (2), Greg Gibson and an own goal gave Tokyo a 4-3

home win over Sholing Monks. Dan Derrick, Mo Elazabi and Paul Coombes replied.

Southern Sports' first team are also through - they defeated Hamwic 4-2 with Craig Harper, Callum Byrne, Mike Orchard and an own goal on target. Pawel Burdzy and Dan Stockley replied.

George Hodgkins struck four goals as Hedge End City romped to an 8-0 win at Montfort.

Matt Dipper (2), Jacob Ainslee and Sam Mansbridge also scored.

Leon Course, Alex Hopcroft, Ashley Hibberd and Dan Aranda netted as Empire won 4-1 at Nemesis. Elliot Farminer replied.

Itchen look the team to beat

Fixtures

Monday
ESFA Colleges Under-18 Trophy 2nd rd: Farnborough v Merrist Wood (Guildford), 9.45.
Wednesday
AOC Cup: Itchen v Strodes
Colleges Premier: Peter Symonds v Andover, Poole Grammar v Barton Peveril, Richard Taunton v Farnborough.
Championship: Brockenhurst v Barton Peveril, Farnborough v Basingstoke, Havant/Southdowns v Bournemouth, Portsmouth v Peter Symonds.

Mike
Vimpany



Itchen are clearly going to be the team to beat in the Hampshire Colleges League - and no one has yet!

Eager to reclaim a title which Peter Symonds' have deservedly won for the past two seasons, Itchen have set the bar with four straight wins and boast the only unblemished start.

They strengthened their hold on top spot with a comfortable 5-0 victory over a disappointing Farnborough at Middle Road.

Two up early on through an own goal and Will Gage, they had to wait until the second half before England's Jean Luc Ramdin - a player head and shoulders above anyone else on the park - nailed a third off the inside upright.

Farnborough were lacklustre and it was no surprise Cam Russell and Craig Hunt added to Itchen's tally before the end.

Boro' will want to regroup for Monday morning's continued ESFA Colleges Trophy defence against Guildford's Merrist Wood.

Itchen, too, switch their attention to cup football next week with Strodes visiting in the AOC cup, in which Barton Peveril won 3-1 at Brighton's Varndean.

Andover chalked up their first HCL win, 5-3 against visiting Richard Taunton's, while defending champions Peter Symonds beat Poole Grammar 3-1 through Anthony Croucher, Joe Sutherland and the impressive Ben Moore.

The three Championship matches produced a glut of goals - ten of the 24 coming in the 5-5



Jean-Luc Ramdin, left, in action for Itchen.

draw between Peter Symonds II and Bournemouth.

Sammy Tourh (2), Brandon Boontam, Jordan Burgess and Jordan Gilbert scored for Bourne-

mouth, who allowed a 4-2 lead to slip.

Nick Berry-Green, Louis Woods, Matt Jennings, Ben Parkinson and Dom Kay hit back for PSC.

In the other Championship games, unbeaten leaders Barton Peveril thrashed Basingstoke 5-0 and Farnborough edged out Portsmouth 5-4.

PINK

No change in top flight as leading pair both win again

The top two won again in the Senior Division of the New Forest Training Services Ltd City of Southampton Sunday League.

Table-topping Chamberlayne won 2-1 at Durley thanks to goals from Seb Bridle and Stefan Williams, with Ashley Dallimore replying.

Second placed Fawley RBL won 5-3 at Clock Inn helped by a Nathan Gray treble. Joe Moore

(2) and Brad Rowthorne replied for Clock side level at 2-2 at half-time.

Winsor United, playing only their second Division 1 game of the season, romped to a 7-0 victory at King George. Alex Clark (2), Jay Petty (2), Spencer Haysom, George Jones and Liam Dwyer were on target.

Ollie Winters and Kieran

Britland scored as Bedford Arms - finally playing their first league game of 2017/18 - made a winning start with a 3-1 success at Portswood. Aaron Blaxall replied.

O.T.'s & Romsey extended their 100 per cent start to the Division 3 season with a 5-3 win at Test Valley Spartans.

Mitch Down (2), Alex Bampton, Adam Hope and Bradley Piziura

netted, with James Hill (2) and Callum Scott replying.

Chandler's Ford Athletic caned Netley Spitfire 7-1 in Division 5 with goals from Lee Farrant-Poole (3), James Bright, Scott Clements (2) and Nathan Roles. James Bulpitt replied.

Dingle Rovers defeated Whiteheart 3-0 thanks to Sam Dartmouth, Ben Gurman and Matthew Bowers.

Spitfire Matt is a second half hero

Matt Coulthard was AFC Spitfire's hero as they progressed to the third round of the Hampshire FA Sunday Junior A Cup.

He bagged a second half hat-trick to give his side a 3-0 home win over Abbots Ann Eagles.

Fellow City of Southampton Sunday League side RS Nomansland struck five times in their Hampshire FA John Ward Sunday Senior Cup tie against Talbot Rangers.

But that still wasn't enough to take them through as Talbot won 6-5 thanks to a last minute winner.

On target for Nomansland were Dan Sanders (2, 1 penalty), Niall Henderson, Ben Dawkins and John Longman

Player-manager Matt Bosequet scored the only goal to give Mottisfont victory at Chamberlayne Athletic Reserves in the second round of the Southampton FA Junior A Cup.

The winners played with only 10 men for most of the tie due to an injury.

Craig Stickland was the toast of Lyndhurst JFC after their DR Ryder Trophy first round extra time victory over Eastpoint.

He struck both his side's goals in their 2-2 draw after 90 minutes - and then added two more in the extra half hour.

Andy Catterson and Chris Hill replied.

Aaston England and Gav Cross led Hedge End Athletic's goal spree at Southampton Warriors.

They both struck hat-tricks as Athletic stormed to a 14-1 success, netting seven goals in each half.

Dan Turner (2), Joe Williams (2), Shaun Ridoutt (2), Lee Little and Nick Turner also scored, with Ben Sanders replying.

Wayne O'Dell was another hat-trick hero - his goals helping Bitterne Ducks stage an impressive fightback at Portside.

The hosts led 3-1 at half-time, but Bitterne romped home 8-4



Burnley's Chris Wood (left) and Maya Yoshida battle for possession at St Mary's. Match report on pages 2/3.

with Michael Thomas, Dan Todd, Luke Richards, Alex Taylor and Sami Miah also netting.

Kabir Breathen (2), Matt Watkinson and Joe Clist replied.

Lordshill romped to a 6-1 success at Landguard Rovers thanks to goals from Floyd Bedwell, Martin McCann (2), Macca Branigan and Callum Gill. Iyaaz Cawsey

replied.

Tom Sage and an own goal were on target as AFC Riverside defeated visiting Hunters Inn 2-0 after a goalless first half.

New Forest Training Services Limited City of Southampton Sunday League

Senior Division

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Chamberlayne	7	6	1	0	25	6	19
Fawley R.B.L.	6	4	1	1	29	13	13
Itchen Saints	4	3	0	1	14	5	9
Boyatt Wood	6	2	1	3	12	24	7
R.S. Nomansland	4	2	0	2	13	9	6
Durley	6	1	1	4	9	25	4
Testlands	3	1	0	2	5	7	3
A.F.C. Soton	4	1	0	3	7	11	3
Clock Inn	6	1	0	5	9	23	3

Junior 1

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Hunters Inn	4	4	0	0	13	5	12
Bridge Manor	4	3	1	0	17	7	10
Lyndhurst	2	2	0	0	8	2	6
King George	5	1	1	3	11	19	4
Eastpoint	4	1	1	2	4	8	4
Winsor U.S.C.	2	1	0	1	8	5	3
A.F.C. Riverside	4	0	2	2	4	8	2
Bitterne Ducks	4	0	2	2	7	14	2
Lordshill	3	0	1	2	6	10	1

Junior 2

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Hedge End Athletic	5	5	0	0	27	4	15
Portswood	5	3	0	2	15	12	9
Chartwell Green	3	2	0	1	13	8	6
A.F.C. Spitfire	3	1	1	1	5	5	4
Marchwood	5	1	1	3	7	15	4
Bedford	1	1	0	0	3	1	3
Chamberlayne Res	3	1	0	2	7	9	3
Curbridge	4	1	0	3	5	13	3
Landguard	5	1	0	4	8	23	3

Junior 3

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
O.T.'s & Romsey	6	6	0	0	35	13	18
Mottisfont	5	5	0	0	34	11	15
Mayfield	5	4	0	1	28	7	12
Portside	6	3	1	2	26	21	10
Testlands Res	4	1	1	2	12	4	4
Test Valley	4	1	0	3	21	20	3
A.F.C. Dorchester	4	1	0	3	15	18	3
Royale Marine	2	0	0	2	1	8	0
London Airways	4	0	0	4	7	27	0
Soton Warriors	4	0	0	4	5	47	0

Junior 4

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Athletico Romsey	6	5	0	1	29	11	15
Sholing Monks	7	4	1	2	14	18	13
Tokyo	6	4	0	2	18	13	12
Forests	5	3	0	2	23	9	9
Stoneham	6	2	1	3	15	18	7
Forest Home	4	1	0	3	8	10	3
Hedge End City	4	1	0	3	8	13	3
Nomansland Res	3	1	0	2	7	17	3
Romsey Comrades	5	1	0	4	4	17	3

Junior 5

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Chandler's Ford	7	6	0	1	35	13	18
Hedge End Club	6	5	0	1	2	4	15
Dingle Rovers	4	3	0	1	12	4	9
A.F.C. Itchen	5	3	0	2	14	17	9
Chamberlayne A	4	2	0	2	10	10	6
Netley Spitfire	6	2	0	4	16	26	6
Mayflower	3	1	0	2	7	11	3
Whitehart	5	1	0	4	11	21	3
Sp Compass	5	1	0	4	7	15	3
Burridge	3	0	0	3	3	15	0

Junior 6

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Unity 101	6	5	0	1	26	8	15
Hamwic Rovers	6	3	2	1	16	16	11
Southern Sports	5	3	1	1	16	7	10
Otter S.F.C.	4	3	0	1	12	9	9
Riverside	4	2	0	2	6	6	6
Park Gate	7	1	2	4	18	25	5
Nemesis	5	1	1	3	12	16	4
Linden Tree	4	0	1	3	7	15	1
Meon Valley	3	0	1	2	5	16	1

Junior 7

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Southern Res	5	4	0	1	33	12	12
Southbridge	6	4	0	2	21	24	12
Empire	4	2	2	0	21	5	8
Phoenix	4	2	1	1	14	9	7
Itchen Res	5	2	1	2	15	20	7
Montfort	5	2	1	2	12	18	7
Wilton	3	2	1	0	5	3	6
Mayflower Res	6	1	1	4	11	23	4
M & T	6	0	0	6	6	24	0

PINK LEAGUE FIXTURES 2017/18

SAINTS	CHERRIES	POMPEY	EASTLEIGH	POOLE
PREMIER LEAGUE	PREMIER LEAGUE	LEAGUE 1	NATIONAL LEAGUE	NATIONAL LEAGUE SOUTH
AUGUST	AUGUST	AUGUST	AUGUST	AUGUST
12 Swansea (H) D 0-0	12 West Brom (A) L 0-1	5 Rochdale (H) W 2-0	5 Bromley (A) D 0-0	5 Weston SM (A) W 2-1
19 West Ham (H) W 3-2	19 Watford (H) L 0-2	12 Oxford United(A) L 0-3	8 Sutton United (H) W 1-0	8 Bognor Regis (H) D 2-2
26 Huddersfield (A) D 0-0	26 Manchester City(H) L 1-2	19 Walsall (H) D 1-1	12 Dagenham (H) D 2-2	12 East Thurrock (H) L 2-3
SEPTEMBER	SEPTEMBER	SEPTEMBER	SEPTEMBER	SEPTEMBER
9 Watford (H) L 0-2	9 Arsenal (A) L 0-3	3 Rotherham (H) L 0-1	15 Woking (A) L 1-2	15 Chippenham (A) W 1-0
16 Crystal Palace (A) W 1-0	15 Brighton (H) W 2-1	9 AFC Wimbledon (A) W 2-0	19 Tranmere (H) W 2-0	19 St Albans City (H) L 0-1
23 Man United (H) L 0-1	23 Everton (A) L 1-2	12 Northampton (A) L 1-3	26 Leyton Orient(A) D 1-1	26 Bath City (A) L 0-1
30 Stoke (A) L 1-2	30 Leicester (H) D 0-0	16 Fleetwood (H) W 4-1	28 Aldershot (H) D 0-0	28 Hungerford (H) L 1-2
OCTOBER	OCTOBER	OCTOBER	OCTOBER	OCTOBER
15 Newcastle (H) D 2-2	14 Tottenham (A) L 0-1	26 Bristol Rovers(H) W 3-0	9 Guiseley (A) D 0-0	2 Whitehawk (A) D 2-2
21 West Brom (H) W 1-0	21 Stoke (A) W 2-1	30 Oldham (H) L 1-2	12 Maidstone (H) L 0-1	5 Hemel Hempstead(H) L 2-4
29 Brighton (A) D 1-1	28 Chelsea (H) L 0-1	8 Gillingham (A) W 1-0	16 AFC Fylde (H) D 2-2	9 Welling United (A) L 0-2
NOVEMBER	NOVEMBER	NOVEMBER	NOVEMBER	NOVEMBER
4 Burnley (H)	4 Newcastle (A)	14 MK Dons (H) W 2-0	3 Boreham Wood (A) L 0-1	7 Oxford City (A) W 3-2
18 Liverpool (A)	18 Huddersfield (H)	17 Doncaster (A) L 1-2	7 Wrexham (A) L 1-2	21 Havant & W (A) D 2-2
26 Everton (H)	25 Swansea (A)	21 Blackburn (A) L 0-3	21 Gateshead (H) W 3-2	28 Gloucester City (H) L 0-3
29 Manchester City (A)	29 Burnley (H)	28 Bradford City (H) L 0-1	24 Solihull Moors (H) L 1-2	31 Concord (H)
DECEMBER	DECEMBER	DECEMBER	DECEMBER	DECEMBER
3 Bournemouth (A)	3 Southampton (H)	11 Blackpool (A)	4 Chester (H)	4 Eastbourne Borough (A)
11 Arsenal (H)	9 Crystal Palace (A)	18 Southend (H)	11 Dover (A)	11 Braintree (H)
13 Leicester (H)	12 Manchester United (A)	21 Peterborough (A)	18 Barrow (H)	18 Hampton & RB (A)
16 Chelsea (A)	16 Liverpool (H)	25 Plymouth (H)	21 Maidenhead (H)	DECEMBER
23 Huddersfield (H)	23 Manchester City (A)	DECEMBER	25 Halifax Town (A)	2 Dartford (H)
26 Tottenham (12.30pm) (A)	26 West Ham (H)	9 Charlton (A)	DECEMBER	9 Weston Super-Mare (H)
30 Manchester United (A)	30 Everton (H)	16 Bury (H)	2 Sutton United (A)	23 Bognor Regis Town (A)
JANUARY	JANUARY	23 Shrewsbury (A)	9 Bromley (H)	26 Truro City (H)
1 Crystal Palace (H)	1 Brighton (A)	26 AFC Wimbledon (H)	23 Dagenham (A)	JANUARY
13 Watford (A)	13 Arsenal (H)	30 Northampton (H)	26 Torquay (H)	1 Truro City (A)
20 Tottenham (H)	20 West Ham (A)	JANUARY	30 Woking (H)	6 Chippenham (H)
31 Brighton (H)	31 Chelsea (A)	1 Bristol Rovers (A)	JANUARY	13 East Thurrock (A)
FEBRUARY	FEBRUARY	6 Fleetwood (A)	1 Torquay (A)	20 Welling United (H)
3 West Brom (A)	3 Stoke (H)	13 Scunthorpe (H)	6 Guiseley (H)	27 Hemel Hempstead (A)
10 Liverpool (H)	10 Huddersfield (A)	20 Rotherham (A)	20 Maidstone (A)	FEBRUARY
24 Burnley (A)	24 Newcastle (H)	27 Shrewsbury (H)	27 Hartlepool (H)	3 Gloucester City (A)
MARCH	MARCH	FEBRUARY	FEBRUARY	10 Havant & W (H)
3 Stoke (H)	3 Leicester (A)	3 Doncaster (H)	3 AFC Fylde (A)	17 Eastbourne Borough (H)
10 Newcastle (A)	10 Tottenham (H)	10 MK Dons (A)	10 Boreham Wood (H)	24 Braintree (A)
17 Swansea (A)	17 West Brom (H)	13 Blackburn (H)	17 Chester (A)	MARCH
31 West Ham (A)	31 Watford (A)	17 Southend (A)	20 Maidenhead (A)	3 Hampton & RB (H)
APRIL	APRIL	24 Blackpool (H)	24 Halifax Town (H)	10 Dartford (A)
7 Arsenal (A)	7 Crystal Palace (H)	MARCH	MARCH	17 Bath City (H)
14 Chelsea (H)	14 Liverpool (A)	3 Bradford City (A)	3 Barrow (A)	24 St Albans City (A)
21 Leicester (A)	21 Manchester United (H)	10 Gillingham (H)	10 Dover Athletic (H)	30 Whitehawk (H)
28 Bournemouth (H)	28 Southampton (A)	17 Oldham (A)	17 Leyton Orient (H)	APRIL
MAY	MAY	24 Oxford United (H)	24 Tranmere (A)	2 Hungerford (A)
5 Everton (A)	5 Swansea (H)	31 Walsall (A)	30 Ebbsfleet (H)	7 Chelmsford City (A)
13 Manchester City (H)	13 Burnley (A)	APRIL	APRIL	14 Wealdstone (H)
		2 Wigan (H)	2 Aldershot (A)	21 Concord Rangers (A)
		7 Rochdale (A)	7 Wrexham (H)	28 Oxford City (H)
		14 Plymouth (A)	14 Gateshead (A)	
		21 Charlton (H)	21 Macclesfield (H)	
		28 Bury (A)	28 Solihull Moors (A)	
		MAY		
		5 Peterborough (H)		

PINK LEAGUE FIXTURES 2017/18

GOSPORT

SOUTHERN PREMIER

AUGUST

12 King's Lynn Town(A)	L 0-2
15 Slough Town (H)	L 1-5
19 Royston Town(H)	L 2-3
26 Tiverton Town(A)	L 0-2
28 Basingstoke Town(H)	L 0-8

SEPTEMBER

9 Biggleswade Town (A)	L 0-2
12 Farnborough (H)	L 2-4
23 Stratford Town (A)	L 0-2
26 Kings Langley (A)	D 1-1
30 Hitchin Town (H)	L 0-3

OCTOBER

7 Bishop's Stortford (H)	L 1-3
9 Dorchester Town (A)	L 2-7
14 Merthyr Town (A)	L 0-5
17 Banbury United (H)	L 0-4
21 King's Lynn Town (H)	PP
24 Slough Town (A)	L 1-5

NOVEMBER

4 St Neots Town	(H)
11 Frome Town	(A)
15 Farnborough	(A)
18 Dunstable Town	(H)
25 Kettering Town	(A)
28 Kings Langley	(H)

DECEMBER

2 Hereford	(H)
9 Redditch United	(A)
16 Chesham United	(H)
23 St Ives Town	(A)
26 Basingstoke Town	(A)

JANUARY

1 Weymouth	(H)
6 Royston Town	(A)
13 Tiverton Town	(H)
20 Bishop's Stortford	(A)
27 Dorchester Town	(H)

FEBRUARY

3 Banbury United	(A)
10 Merthyr Town	(H)
17 Hitchin Town	(A)
24 Statford Town	(H)

MARCH

3 Dunstable	(A)
10 Kettering Town	(H)
17 Redditch United	(H)
24 Hereford	(A)
31 Biggleswade Town	(H)

APRIL

2 Weymouth	(A)
7 St Ives Town	(H)
14 Chesham United	(A)
21 Frome Town	(H)
28 St Neots Town	(A)

AFC TOTTON

SOUTHERN WEST

AUGUST

12 Barnstaple Town(H)	W 3-1
15 Bishops Cleeve(A)	W 3-1
26 Slimbridge (H)	L 1-2
28 Salisbury (A)	L 0-2

SEPTEMBER

9 Yate Town (H)	W 5-0
16 Taunton Town (A)	L 1-2
23 Larkhall (A)	W 1-0
26 North Leigh (H)	W 2-1
30 Wimborne (A)	D 1-1

OCTOBER

14 Cinderford (A)	L 0-1
21 Bideford (H)	PP
24 Swindon Superm (A)	L 0-1
28 Didcot (H)	W 2-1

NOVEMBER

4 Kidlington	(A)
11 Mangotsfield	(H)
14 Didcot Town	(H)
18 Shortwood	(A)
25 Evesham United	(H)
28 Wimborne Town	(A)

DECEMBER

2 Cirencester Town	(H)
9 Bristol Manor Farm	(A)
16 Bishops Cleeve	(H)
23 Barnstaple Town	(A)
26 Salisbury	(H)

JANUARY

1 Winchester City	(A)
6 Taunton Town	(H)
13 Slimbridge	(A)
20 Mangotsfield	(A)
27 Kidlington	(H)

FEBRUARY

3 Larkhall Athletic	(H)
10 North Leigh	(A)
17 Cinderford Town	(H)
24 Paulton Rovers	(A)

MARCH

3 Swindon Supermarine	(H)
10 Bideford	(A)
17 Bristol Manor Farm	(H)
24 Cirencester Town	(A)
31 Yate Town	(A)

APRIL

2 Winchester City	(H)
7 Shortwood United	(H)
14 Didcot Town	(A)
21 Wimborne Town	(H)
28 Evesham United	(A)

WINCHESTER

SOUTHERN WEST

AUGUST

12 Shortwood (A)	W 4-2
15 Kidlington (H)	L 0-1
26 Larkhall (A)	W 2-1
28 Wimborne (H)	W 1-0

SEPTEMBER

9 Cirencester Town (A)	L 0-1
23 Mangotsfield (H)	W 3-0
26 Didcot Town (A)	W 4-2
30 Barnstaple (A)	W 4-1

OCTOBER

14 Bristol Manor Farm (H)	L 1-2
17 Paulton (H)	D 1-1
21 Taunton Town (A)	L 1-4
27 Salisbury (H)	L 4-5

NOVEMBER

4 Cinderford Town	(A)
11 Bishops Cleeve	(H)
14 Swindon Supermarine	(H)
18 Yate Town	(A)
25 Bideford	(H)
28 North Leigh	(A)

DECEMBER

2 Evesham United	(H)
9 Slimbridge	(A)
16 Kidlington	(A)
23 Shortwood United	(H)
26 Wimborne Town	(A)

JANUARY

1 AFC Totton	(H)
6 Paulton Rovers	(A)
13 Larkhall Athletic	(H)
20 Bishops Cleeve	(A)
27 Cinderford Town	(H)

FEBRUARY

3 Mangotsfield United	(A)
10 Didcot Town	(H)
17 Bristol Manor Farm	(A)
24 Barnstaple Town	(H)

MARCH

3 Salisbury	(A)
10 Taunton Town	(H)
17 Slimbridge	(H)
24 Evesham United	(A)
31 Cirencester Town	(H)

APRIL

2 AFC Totton	(A)
7 Yate Town	(H)
14 Swindon Supermarine	(A)
21 North Leigh	(H)
28 Bideford	(A)

SALISBURY

SOUTHERN WEST

AUGUST

12 Mangotsfield (A)	W 5-0
15 Paulton Rovers(H)	D 2-2
26 North Leigh (A)	L 1-2
28 AFC Totton (H)	W 2-0

SEPTEMBER

9 Shortwood (A)	W 8-0
23 Yate Town (A)	W 1-0
26 Swindon Super (H)	L 0-2
30 Bishops Cleeve (H)	D 0-0

OCTOBER

14 Slimbridge (A)	W 5-2
21 Evesham United (H)	D 0-0
27 Winchester City (A)	W 5-4

NOVEMBER

4 Barnstaple Town	(A)
11 Larkhall Athletic	(H)
14 Kidlington	(H)
18 Cinderford Town	(A)
25 Bristol Manor Farm	(H)
28 Didcot Town	(A)

DECEMBER

2 Bideford	(H)
9 Taunton Town	(A)
16 Paulton Rovers	(A)
23 Mangotsfield United	(H)
26 AFC Totton	(A)

JANUARY

1 Wimborne Town	(H)
6 Cirencester Town	(A)
13 North Leigh	(H)
20 Larkhall Athletic	(A)
27 Barnstaple Town	(H)

FEBRUARY

3 Yate Town	(H)
10 Swindon Supermarine	(A)
17 Slimbridge	(H)
24 Bishops Cleeve	(A)

MARCH

3 Winchester City	(H)
10 Evesham United	(A)
17 Taunton Town	(H)
24 Bideford	(A)
31 Shortwood United	(H)

APRIL

2 Wimborne Town	(A)
7 Cinderford Town	(H)
14 Kidlington	(A)
21 Didcot Town	(H)
28 Bristol Manor Farm	(A)

WIMBORNE

SOUTHERN WEST

AUGUST

12 Bishops Cleeve(H)	W 3-1
15 Didcot Town (A)	L 2-4
26 Yate Town (H)	W 4-2
28 Winchester City (A)	L 0-1

SEPTEMBER

2 Larkhall Athletic (H)	L 1-3
9 Bristol Manor Farm(H)	L 1-3
17 Evesham United (A)	W 2-1
23 Bideford (A)	W 2-1
30 AFC Totton (H)	D 1-1

OCTOBER

14 North Leigh (A)	D 1-1
17 Cirencester (H)	L 0-1
21 Swindon Super (H)	W 3-0
24 Paulton Rovers (A)	L 0-1

NOVEMBER

4 Shortwood United	(H)
11 Cirencester Town	(A)
14 Taunton Town	(A)
18 Mangotsfield United	(H)
25 Slimbridge	(A)
28 AFC Totton	(H)

DECEMBER

2 Barnstaple Town	(A)
9 Kidlington	(H)
16 Didcot Town	(H)
23 Bishops Cleeve	(A)
26 Winchester City	(H)

JANUARY

1 Salisbury	(A)
6 Evesham United	(H)
13 Yate Town	(A)
20 Cirencester Town	(H)
27 Shortwood United	(A)

FEBRUARY

3 Bideford	(H)
10 Larkhall Athletic	(A)
17 North Leigh	(H)
24 Cinderford Town	(A)

MARCH

3 Paulton Rovers	(H)
10 Swindon Supermarine	(A)
17 Kidlington	(A)
24 Barnstaple Town	(H)
31 Bristol Manor Farm	(A)

APRIL

2 Salisbury	(H)
7 Mangotsfield	(A)
14 Taunton Town	(H)
21 AFC Totton	(A)
28 Slimbridge	(H)

Book review

Bairstow's story is a true gem of a book

A Clear Blue Sky
By Jonny Bairstow with
Duncan Hamilton

Sportsbookofthemonth.
com price: £14.44, saving
£4.55 on rrp

In among the mountain of 'official' football annuals, hastily-written cut-and-paste sporting biographies, statistical appreciations and photographic collections piled high in readiness for the traditional Christmas book-buying spree lies a gem of a sporting tome.

It has nothing to do with football, though its subject could probably have become a professional footballer; indeed, it could be argued that sport itself is peripheral to the book's narrative because this is a tale which champions determination, willpower and human spirit.

It's difficult to comprehend how a boy of eight feels when his father, an accomplished



international sportsman, takes his own life.

David Bairstow was a well-liked, larger-than-life character and uncompromising, teak-tough cricketer who represented Yorkshire and England.

He experienced incredible highs as a sportsman, yet something caused him to commit suicide aged just 46 and leave behind a wife, recently diagnosed with cancer, and three young children.

How Jonny Bairstow coped is pivotal to an often heart-rending tale, beautifully written by Duncan Hamilton.

As a youngster, Jonny was an outstanding athlete but ultimately, he decided to follow in his father's footsteps and become a professional cricketer. *A Clear Blue Sky* is not, however, a statistical re-run of JB's career to date, but a gripping, page-turning evocation of the human spirit, a story of triumph and lots of sadness in the face of extreme adversity.

By all means keep the bookshops' tills ringing by buying those official annuals and statistical collections, but if you're looking to read one of the very best sport-related books of recent years, then treat yourself to a copy of *A Clear Blue Sky*.



Flashback to the 'Invictus' Rugby World Cup



Nelson Mandela

South Africa has received the World Rugby board's recommendation to host the 2023 World Cup.

Here, the Sports Pink looks back at the last time the country staged the tournament in 1995.

Historic

The 1995 tournament was the first major sporting event to be held in South Africa following the end of apartheid. It was also the first time South Africa competed in the tournament. Due to the political problems in the country at the time, the 1995 Rugby World Cup was a test for South Africa's new president, Nelson Mandela, to try and unite his divided nation. With South Africa seemingly on the brink of civil war, Mandela instructed his people to come together to support the Springboks.

A memorable finish

The final between New Zealand and South Africa saw the best attack come up against the best defence. The All Blacks went into the showpiece having scored 315 points in the tournament, with the home nation only conceding 55. Without a try scored in the opening 80 minutes they went into extra-time locked at 9-9. Both sides scored penalties during the first half of extra-time but it was Joel Stransky's drop goal which secured South Africa the World Cup in front of a sell-out crowd at Ellis Park. The image of Mandela wearing a Springbok jersey and baseball cap, handing over the Webb Ellis Cup to South Africa captain Francois Pienaar, is still one of the most memorable in sporting history.

Venues

This was the first Rugby World Cup to be hosted by one nation. A total of nine stadiums were used, with the majority being given upgrades prior to the tournament to ensure they were up to the required standard. The largest four - Loftus Versfeld, Newlands, Kings Park Stadium and Ellis Park - were used for the knockout games, with Johannesburg's Ellis Park hosting the final itself.

Invictus

The tournament was the subject of the John Carlin book 'Playing the Enemy: Nelson Mandela and the Game That Made a Nation'. It was later immortalised into the 2009 film 'Invictus' starring Matt Damon and Morgan Freeman, who played South Africa captain Pienaar and Mandela respectively. It resulted in Academy Award nominations for Freeman and Damon.

Will anyone ever beat Leroy's short reign?

Richard Money is the latest manager to leave his position after a short space of time following his resignation from Solihull Moors.

The 62-year-old was at the helm of the National League strugglers for just 26 days before walking away.

The only league game he won during his short spell was a shock 2-1 victory at Eastleigh.

Here, the Sports Pink looks at some other notoriously short spells in charge

Leroy Rosenior - 10 minutes

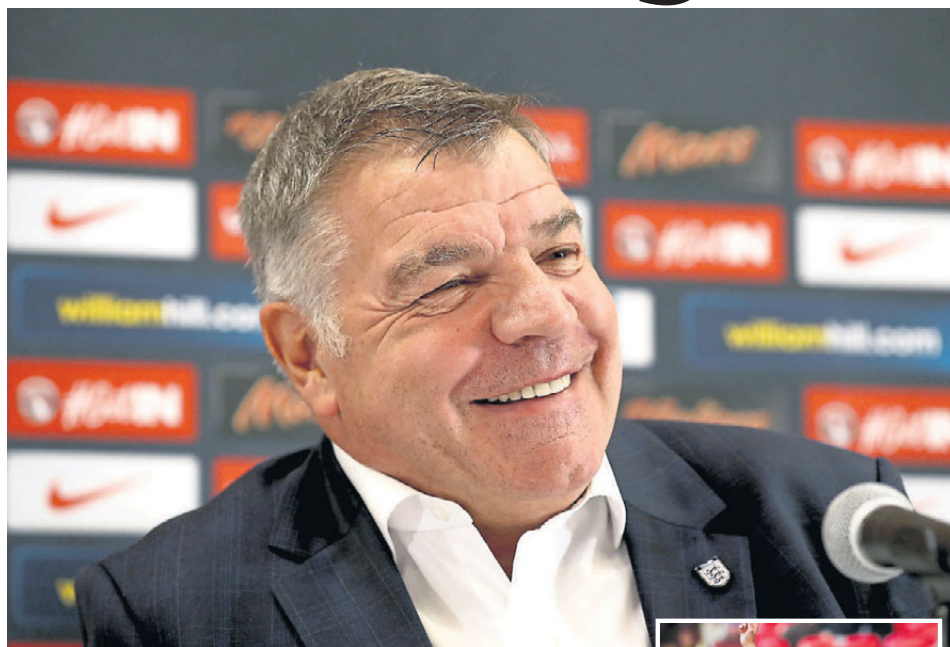
In one of the most famous managerial stories of recent times, Leroy Rosenior was appointed for a second spell at Torquay in May 2007, only for the club to be immediately sold and the new owners sack him 10 minutes after his unveiling press conference.

Brian Atkinson and Sean Gegan - Five days

Coaches Atkinson and Gegan were put in charge until the end of this season when Martin Gray left the National League North club on October 1. However, by October 5 they were both gone as Atkinson was affiliated with Gray's coaching academy and Gegan wanted more job security.

Steve Coppell - 33 days

The former England international took over from ex-Saints boss Alan Ball in October 1996, but struggled to cope with the pressure at Maine Road and walked out a little more than a month later. He took charge of just six games.



Sam Allardyce and, right, Richard Money.

Darko Milanic - 33 days

Leeds fans were heading to Google when Milanic was appointed as Dave Hockaday's replacement at Elland Road in 2014 - but the Slovenian did not last long. After winning none of his six games in charge he was sacked by maverick owner Massimo Cellino.

Paul Gascoigne - 39 days

Gascoigne's only foray into management was at Conference

North club Kettering in 2005 and perhaps unsurprisingly it did not last long. The former England midfielder's battle with alcohol was blamed by the club, while Gascoigne complained of boardroom interference.

Sam Allardyce - 67 days

Allardyce became the shortest serving of England's 14 permanent managers when he lasted just 67 days and one game in 2016. The former Sunderland manager was sacked by the FA for his part in an undercover sting by a national newspaper.



PINK

The numbers behind four-times F1 world champ Lewis

1 - Hamilton becomes Britain's first quadruple world champion (2008, 2014, 2015 and 2017) after moving one clear of Sir Jackie Stewart.

72 - The Canadian Grand Prix in 2007 marked Hamilton's first career pole position. He now has more poles than any driver in the history of the sport after surpassing Michael Schumacher's tally of 68 in Italy.

62 - Hamilton also tasted his opening victory at the 2007 Canadian Grand Prix, and has won 61 further races. He is second on the

all-time list behind Schumacher (91).

40 - Hamilton has won 40 races in his five seasons at Mercedes.

206 - Hamilton has competed in more than 200 races after reaching his double ton in Belgium earlier this year. Brazilian Rubens Barrichello holds the all-time record with 323.

11 - Hamilton has started 11 consecutive grand prix campaigns, and has won at least one race in each of those years.

9 - Hamilton has won nine grands prix, more than double the tally of Sebastian Vettel (four), this season.

116 - Hamilton has finished on the podium in more than half of the grands prix he has contested.

He also shares the record with Schumacher and Vettel for the most podium finishes (17) in a single season which he achieved in 2015 and last year.

18 - The Englishman holds the outright record for the number of consecutive races in which he has led

at least one lap.

4 - Hamilton joins Michael Schumacher (seven), Juan Manuel Fangio (five), Alain Prost and Vettel (both four) as only the fifth driver to have won more than three titles.

44 - Hamilton's race number which he first used in his junior career, and latterly in F1, when drivers were permitted to choose their own number from 2014 onwards.

1 - Hamilton is the only black driver to have won a grand prix and a championship.

5 key moments in Lewis' fourth F1 title success

Lewis Hamilton has clinched the fourth Formula One world championship of his career after a ninth-place finish at the Mexican GP.

Hamilton had at one stage fallen 25 points adrift of Sebastian Vettel in the title race, but won following a scintillating run of form.

Here, the Sports Pink looks at five pivotal moments from Hamilton's title-winning campaign.

Vettel loses it in Baku

The race of the season. Vettel banged wheels with Hamilton after he believed the Briton had brake-tested him during a safety car period. Vettel was hit with a stop-and-go penalty, but Hamilton was robbed of victory after his headrest came loose and he was forced into an unscheduled pit stop. To make matters worse, Vettel finished one spot ahead of Hamilton in fourth. Vettel was hauled in front of the FIA, but escaped any further punishment.

British home comforts

Hamilton headed to the British GP under pressure after he mysteriously dodged a promotional event in London to take a two-day break to the Greek island of Mykonos. Hamilton however, claimed pole position before storming to glory. Vettel suffered a puncture with just two laps left which dropped him to seventh and afforded Hamilton the chance to move to within one point of the German in the championship race.

Vettel crushed in Ferrari's back yard

Hamilton delivered one of the finest qualifying performances of his career at a rain-soaked Monza. Hamilton secured pole position by posting a stunning lap in the torrid conditions to finish an eye-watering 1.1 seconds clear of his next competitor, and more



Lewis Hamilton celebrates winning the Formula One drivers' championship in Mexico City.

than two seconds ahead of Valtteri Bottas in identical Mercedes machinery. Hamilton's pole, the 69th of his career, paved the way for him to complete a dominant win and move to the summit of the championship for the first time this season.

Vettel's Singapore crash

After qualifying only fifth, Hamilton looked destined to lose his title lead. But Vettel, who started on pole, was too aggressive off

the start-line, and in attempting to block Max Verstappen he inadvertently caused a three-way collision with the Dutchman and his Ferrari team-mate Kimi Raikkonen, too. Hamilton roared to a shock victory, but Vettel left Singapore, a race which he was expected to win, with nil points.

Another DNF

Vettel's championship ambitions suffered another major dent in Malaysia after he was forced

to start from last on the grid following an engine failure in qualifying. Vettel recovered to finish fourth, but he still lost ground to Hamilton, who headed to the next round in Japan with a 34-point lead. Vettel started the Suzuka race alongside his rival on the front row, but his grand prix lasted only a matter of laps following a £52 spark plug failure. It marked his second retirement in three races. Hamilton won to establish a 59-point lead with just a century of points to play for.

Britain's F1 champions

Lewis Hamilton has been crowned Britain's most successful Formula One driver after claiming his fourth world championship in Mexico City.

The 32-year-old has now surpassed Sir Jackie Stewart's haul of three titles.

Here, the Sports Pink looks at Britain's F1 champions.

Mike Hawthorn (1958)

Became Britain's first world champion when he won the title for Ferrari. Retired on the spot before he died just six months later when he crashed his Jaguar on the A3.

Graham Hill (1962, 1968)

The only driver to seal the Triple Crown - the Monaco Grand Prix, Indianapolis 500 and Le Mans 24 Hours race. Died in a plane crash on Arkeley Golf Course in 1975.

Jim Clark (1963, 1965)

A Scottish farmer who won 25 GPs and two championships. Died in a Formula Two crash at Hockenheim in 1968.

John Surtees (1964)

The only person to have won world championships on both two and four wheels. Died earlier this year following a short illness.

Sir Jackie Stewart (1969, 1971, 1973)

A winner of three titles and a pioneer for improved safety in the sport during his motor racing career. Still involved in F1 and famous around the world. In 2001 he received a knighthood.

James Hunt (1976)

Beat Niki Lauda to win the 1976 title after he finished third at a rain-soaked Japanese GP. Lauda retired from the race saying it was too dangerous to continue. Died following a heart attack in 1993, aged just 45.

Nigel Mansell (1992)

Ended a 16-year wait for a British world champion after winning the title with Williams. A winner of 31 grands prix over an impressive career in which he raced for Ferrari, Williams and McLaren.

Damon Hill (1996)

Son of two-time champion Graham, Damon, a late-starter in the sport, followed in his father's footsteps by winning the 1996 title for Williams. As he crossed the line in Suzuka, an emotional Murray Walker uttered the immortal words: "... And I am going to have to stop, because I have got a lump in my throat."

Jenson Button (2009)

Won six of the opening seven races for new team Brawn GP in 2009 to clear the way for him to clinch his fairytale maiden championship. Sung Queen's "We are the Champions" over the radio as he wrapped up the title with one race to spare in Brazil.

Lewis Hamilton (2008, 2014, 2015, 2017)

Hamilton joined the pantheon of all-time greats with his fourth championship. Has a record 72 pole positions, and 62 grands prix victories - second only to Michael Schumacher.



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RESULTS

SATURDAY'S FOOTBALL RESULTS AND TABLES

Premier League

Huddersfield	1	W.B.A.	0
van La Parra 45			
HT 1-0			
Newcastle	0	AFC Bournemouth	1
		S Cook 90	
HT 0-0			
SAINTS	0	Burnley	1
		Vokes 81	
HT 0-0			
Stoke	2	Leicester	2
Shaper 39		Borja 33	
Crouch 73		Mahrez 60	
HT 1-1		Att 29,602	
Swansea	0	Brighton	1
		Murray 29	
HT 0-1		Att 20,822	
West Ham	L	Liverpool	L
HT 1-1			

	HOME							AWAY							
	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pt	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pt	
Man City	10	4	1	0	21	3	5	0	1	4	3	28			
Man Utd	10	5	0	0	15	0	2	2	1	8	4	23			
Tottenham	10	2	2	1	7	4	4	0	1	12	3	20			
Chelsea	10	2	1	2	8	6	4	0	1	10	4	19			
Arsenal	10	1	3	0	13	2	1	1	3	6	9	19			
Burnley	11	2	2	1	3	2	3	2	1	7	7	19			
Liverpool	10	3	2	0	9	1	1	2	2	8	15	16			
Brighton	11	2	2	1	6	5	1	3	1	7	5	15			
Watford	10	1	2	2	5	11	3	1	1	10	7	15			
Huddersfield	11	3	2	1	5	6	1	1	3	3	7	15			
Newcastle	11	3	1	2	7	5	1	1	3	3	5	14			
Leicester	11	2	2	1	2	8	6	1	3	2	8	10	13		
SAINTS	11	2	2	3	6	8	3	1	2	3	3	13			
Stoke	11	2	2	2	8	11	1	1	3	5	11	12			
W.B.A.	11	1	3	1	6	6	1	1	4	3	8	10			
Bournemouth	11	1	3	3	6	6	2	0	4	8	4	10			
West Ham	10	2	0	2	5	6	0	3	3	5	9	8			
Swansea	11	1	0	5	4	10	1	2	2	3	3	8			
Everton	10	2	0	3	5	10	0	2	3	2	10	8			
Crystal P	10	1	1	3	4	9	0	0	5	0	12	4			

SkyBet Championship

A. Villa	1	Sheff Wed	2
Samba 90		Reach 1	
HT 0-2		Rhodes 23	
Barnsley	2	Birmingham	0
Bradshaw 2		Att 33,154	
Fryers 68			
HT 1-0		Att 12,946	
Bolton	2	Norwich	1
Madine 35		Murphy 90	
HT 2-0		Att 14,786	
Brentford	L	Leeds Utd	L
HT 1-1			
Bristol C	2	Cardiff	1
O'Dowda 20		Bogle 41	
HT 1-1		Att 21,692	
Derby City	2	Reading	0
Russell 71		Moore 9	
Martin 90		Akoku 13	
HT 0-2		Beernens 54	
Ipswich	1	Preston North End	0
Waghorn 45		Barrow 75	
Moldgoldrick 49		Att 25,928	
HT 1-0			
Millwall	0	Burton Albion	1
HT 0-0		Sordell 70	
Nottm For	4	Q.P.R.	0
Walker 13,84			
McKay 52		Att 24,021	
HT 1-0			
Sheff Utd	4	Hull	1
Clarke 53,76,80,88		Grosic 29	
HT 0-1		Att 27,466	

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pt		P	W	D	L	F	A	Pt
Wolves	16	6	1	1	15	8	5	1	2	14	7	35			
Sheff Utd	16	7	0	1	14	4	4	0	4	10	10	33			
Cardiff	16	5	3	0	14	4	4	1	3	8	9	31			
Bristol C	16	4	3	1	12	7	3	3	1	14	9	30			
A. Villa	16	4	3	1	11	7	3	2	3	11	8	26			
Derby City	15	4	1	2	13	2	3	3	3	12	10	25			
Ipswich	15	5	0	3	14	8	3	0	4	12	14	24			
Nottm For	15	5	0	3	13	9	3	0	5	12	17	24			
Leeds Utd	15	3	2	1	12	7	3	3	3	11	9	23			
Millwall	15	3	2	2	8	6	3	3	3	12	7	23			
Sheff Wed	16	4	3	1	15	10	2	2	4	6	9	23			
Norwich	16	2	3	3	6	8	4	1	3	9	12	22			
Preston	16	3	3	2	10	8	2	3	3	8	11	21			
Q.P.R.	16	5	2	1	12	7	0	4	4	7	15	21			
Brentford	15	1	5	1	11	11	3	2	3	11	9	19			
Barnsley	15	3	2	3	11	10	2	2	3	11	11	19			
Fulham	16	1	5	8	10	9	3	2	2	10	9	19			
Reading	15	2	2	3	8	9	3	4	1	10	10	18			
Millwall	16	4	1	3	14	10	0	4	4	3	7	17			
Hull	16	3	1	4	21	14	1	3	4	7	16	16			
Burton Albion	16	2	1	5	8	18	1	3	1	2	13	13			
Birmingham	16	3	2	3	5	8	0	1	7	3	17	12			
Bolton	16	2	1	5	8	15	0	4	4	5	14	11			
Sunderland	10	0	3	5	8	14	1	4	4	2	12	10			

FA Cup First Round

AFC Fylde	4	Kidderminster	2
Rowe 14,48		Taylor 74	
Smith 54		Brown 90	
Finley 64			
HT 1-0		Att 1,482	
AFC Wimbledon	1	Lincoln City	0
Taylor 7			
HT 1-0		Att 3,394	
Blackburn	3	Barnet	1
Nuttall 63		Akino 31	
Gratham 70			
Antonsen 81			
HT 0-1		Att 3,710	
Boreham W	2	Blackpool	0
Turgott 68		Phillips 62	
Holman 88			
HT 0-0			

Bradford

HT 2-0		Att 4,747	
Carlisle	3	Oldham	2
Bennett 22,60		Clarke 64	
Hope 36		Holloway 72	
HT 2-0		Att 3,965	
Cheltenham	2	Maidstone Utd	4
Dawson 52		Sam-Yorke 20,53	
Finney 62 og		Pigott 21	
HT 0-3		Hines 43	
Colchester	0	Oxford C.	1
HT 0-0		Patterson 46	
Crewe	2	Rotherham	1
Walker 47, Ainley 89		Vaulks 21	
HT 0-1		Att 2,597	
Ebbw Vale United	2	Doncaster	0
Kedwell 35 pen		Blair 45	
Coulson 37		Marquis 45	
HT 2-2		Copping 52,83 pen, Houghton 78	
Forest Grn	1	Macclesfield	0
Dodge 42		Att 1,387	
Gainsboro	0	Slough	0
HT 0-0		Lynch 35,46,84, Fines 52	
Gateshead	2	Chelmsford	0
Burrow 30, Johnson 34		Att 1,630	
Gillingham	2	Leyton O	1
Parker 20, Eaves 75		Att 732	
HT 2-0		Att 3,559	
Hereford FC	1	AFC Telford	0
Mills 68		Att 4,712	
HT 0-0			
Walsall	1	POMPEY	0
Collins 45		Att 5,333	
HT 1-0			
Morecambe	3	Hartlepool	0
Ellis 44, Fleming 67		Att 2,004	
Loach 85 og			
HT 1-0			
Newport County	L	Walsall	0
HT 1-0		Att 2,820	
Northampton	0	Scunthorpe	0
HT 0-0		Att 2,820	
Peterborough	1	Tranmere	1
Martin 52		Cook 72	
HT 0-0		Att 3,750	
Plymouth	1	Grimsby	0
Carey 9		Att 5,137	
HT 1-0			
Rochdale	4	Bromley	0
Imman 10,54, Henderson 31 pen,84		Att 2,241	
HT 2-0			
Shaw Lane	1	Mansfield	3
Bennett 41		Pearce 34	
HT 1-1		Rose 73,78	
Shrewsbury	5	Aldershot	0
Rodman 20, Whalley 24 pen		Att 3,859	
Imman 10,54, Henderson 31 pen,84			
HT 2-0			
Stevens	5	Nantwich T	0
Goddin 16,76,89, Smith 68,73		Att 1,436	
HT 1-0			
Wigan	2	Crawley	1
Toney 29, Evans 71		Roberts 20	
HT 1-1		Att 3,288	
Yeovil	1	Southend	0
Khan 29 pen		Att 2,073	

SkyBet League One

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pt		P	W	D	L	F	A	Pt
Shrewsbury	16	7	1	0	14	3	5	3	1	10	7	37			
Wigan	16	6	2	0	15	2	5	1	2	14	7	36			
Bradford	16	4	1	3	9	8	5	2	1	16	10	30			
Charnley	16	4	1	1	10	6	4	2	2	10	13	29			
Scunthorpe	16	3	3	2	8	6	4	2	2	10	7	26			
Blackburn	15	4	2	2	14	8	3	2	2	7	4	25			
Rotherham	16	6	0	2	22	9	2	1	5	7	13	25			
Rieswood Tn16	4	26	13	2	3	13	24	2	3	13	9	24			
Peterboro	15	5	0	3	12	12	3	1	4	9	11	23			
Oxford Utd	16	3	4	1	17	9	3	1	4	9	11	23			
Southend	16	4	0	10	6	2	1	1	10	22	23				
Blackpool	15	1	1	10	6	1	2	0	10	13	22				
Bristol R	16	5	0	3	15	12	2	0	6	10	17	21			
POMPEY	16	4	1	3	13	6	2	1	5	6	14	20			
Walsall	16	5	1	1	12	11	3	0	5	11	17	17			
M K Dons	16	2	4	2	11	13	3	0	5	6	11	19			
Cambridge	16	2	3	3	10	11	3	0	5	8	9	18			
Oldham	16	3	0	5	16	2	2	3	5	15	18				
Rochdale	16	3	3	2	9	8	0	5	3	7	11	17			
Wimbledon	16	2	2	4	6	18	2	1	5	3	9	15			
Northampton	16	3	0	5	14	1	1	3	4	7	12	15			
Gillingham	16	1	3	4	7	10	2	2	4	5	10	14			
Bury	16	3	1	4	9	8	0	2	6	8	16	12			
Plymouth	16	1	2	5	6	15	1	3	4	6	9	11			

SkyBet League Two

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pt
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